

On Top Of The News Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, November 21, 2013



## Aruba Welcomes King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima

**ORANJESTAD** – Wednesday, November 20, 2013, thousands of people came to the Parliament Building to catch a glimpse of King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima, the Royal Family of the Netherlands, who are visiting Aruba for the first time since being crowned. Full Story on Page 13!



# Iran warns of limits as Geneva nuclear talks begin

**GEORGE JOHN HEILPRIN**  
Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — A new round of Iran nuclear talks began in fits and starts Wednesday, with the two sides ending a first session just minutes after it began amid warnings from Iran's supreme leader of "red lines" beyond which his country will not compromise.

**JAHN**

Still, both sides indicated a first-step agreement was possible on a deal to roll back Iran's nuclear program in exchange for limited sanctions relief, despite strong opposition from Israel and unease in both Congress and among Iranian hard-liners. President Barack Obama appears determined to reach such an agreement, which could be a major

step toward reconciliation between the United States and a former ally that turned adversary after the Islamic Revolution of 1979. But America's longtime allies Israel and Saudi Arabia fear a deal will fall short of ending the Iranian threat and that a resurgent Iran will transform the balance of power in the Middle East. A senior U.S. official said Wednesday's brief plenary

was only a formality and that bilateral meetings would continue through the evening to try to hammer out the first steps of a deal. She demanded anonymity under U.S. government briefing rules. However, there was also tough talk, reflecting tensions from nearly a decade of negotiations that have begun to make headway only recently.

While voicing support for the talks, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, insisted there are limits to the concessions Tehran will make. And he blasted Israel as "the rabid dog of the region" — comments rejected by French President Francois Hollande as "unacceptable."

French spokeswoman Najat Vallaud-Belkacem told reporters in Paris that such statements complicate the talks, but France still hopes for a deal and its position has not changed. At the previous round earlier this month, France said it wanted tough conditions in any preliminary deal with Iran, and those negotiations then ended with both sides speaking of progress but continued differences on a final agreement.

Khamenei gave no further details in a speech to a paramilitary group aimed at both placating hard-liners and showing his backing for the Iranian officials meeting with international negotiators in Geneva. But his mention of Iran's "nuclear rights" was widely interpreted as a reference to uranium enrichment.

For his part, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pushed ahead with criticism of what he asserts is a deal in the making that will give Iran too much for too little in return.

Netanyahu, in Moscow to meet with President Vladimir Putin, renewed his demand for a full stop to all Iranian nuclear programs that could be turned from peaceful uses to making weapons.

He said that Israel wants to see a negotiated settlement, but added that it must be "genuine and real." "Israel believes that the international community must unequivocally ensure the fulfillment of the U.N. Security Council's decisions so that uranium enrichment ends, centrifuges are dismantled, enriched material is taken out of Iran and the reactor in Arak is dismantled," Netanyahu said, referring to Iran's plutonium reactor under construction. □



A general view shows participants before the start of three days of closed-door nuclear talks in Geneva, Switzerland, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013. (AP Photo/Keystone, Salvatore Di Nolfi)

## 1st Greenpeace protester leaves Russian jail

**IRINA TITOVA**  
Associated Press

**ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)** — The first of 30 Greenpeace activists arrested by Russia in an Arctic protest two months ago was freed on bail Wednesday, in a case that has drawn attention both to Russia's ambitions in the region and its hard line against dissent.

Ana Paula Alminhana Maciel walked out of a St. Petersburg pre-trial jail holding a sign reading "Save The Arctic." She did not make comments to journalists before getting into a car with her lawyer.

Dmitry Artamonov, a Greenpeace representative, said she is "now staying in a safe place," but he declined to give her location.

The 30 were arrested in September after a Greenpeace ship, the Arctic Sunrise, entered Arctic waters despite Russian warnings. Some of the activists tried to scale an offshore drilling platform owned by the state natural gas giant Gazprom.

The release of other detainees could moderate the criticism of Russia's hardline stance. Russian courts have granted bail this week to 17 of the detainees, but they have yet to be let out of jail. Hearings are scheduled for another 12.

Greenpeace contends Arctic drilling poses potentially catastrophic environmental dangers. But Russia bristles at criticism of its oil and gas industry, which is the backbone of the country's economy.

All of those detained were initially charged with piracy, but investigators later changed the charge to hooliganism. Although a lesser charge, hooliganism carries a potential sentence of seven years; piracy's maximum is 15. One activist was denied bail on Monday, but the approval of bail to others suggested a change in official strategy in the case.

A Greenpeace lawyer said an appeal will be filed to release Australian Colin Russell as well. Russell does not appear to have been singled out in being denied bail; his hearing simply came up first.

"None of our people will be truly free until they are all back home with their families," the group's international executive director Kumi Naidoo said in a statement.

It was not immediately clear whether any of those approved for release would be free to leave the country or move about the city.

On Wednesday, the ship's skipper, Peter Willcox, and four other Greenpeace activists were granted bail of 2 million rubles (\$61,500) each. □



# Honoring A Fallen President At Arlington

MARK LANDLER

© 2013 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** - Standing wordlessly before a flickering flame, their faces etched in the sunlight slanting through a canopy of thinning trees, two Democratic presidents came together Wednesday at Arlington National Cemetery to honor the memory of a third.

President Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton walked up a hillside to the grave of John F. Kennedy, where, joined by Michelle Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton, they laid a wreath to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's death by an assassin's bullet.

A military bugler called out taps, the mournful notes resounding on a crisp, clear autumn day that seemed a softer echo of the stark grandeur of the state funeral on Nov. 25, 1963.

It was the emotional highlight of a day laden with symbolism, uniting Democratic presidents past, present and possibly future, to pay tribute to a beloved predecessor, a leader whose legacy and family played a formative role in the lives of Obama and Clinton.

The president and the

former president escorted Ethel Kennedy to the gravesite. Later, they mingled with members of the Kennedy family. In timing that scarcely seemed accidental, Caroline Kennedy, who recently took up her post as Obama's ambassador to Japan, had left for Tokyo only days before this week's milestone.

Earlier Wednesday at the White House, Obama had bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom - conceived by Kennedy a half-century ago as the nation's highest civilian honor - on Clinton and 15 other luminaries from the worlds of sports, politics, journalism and academia.

Under the twinkling chandeliers of the East Room, Obama paid tribute to Clinton for his achievements as governor of Arkansas, as the 42nd president and as the founder of the Clinton Foundation, which Obama said had saved millions of lives.

"Lifting up families like his own became the story of Bill Clinton's life," the president said, as Hillary Clinton sat in the front row of the audience. "He wanted to make sure he made life better and easier for so many people across the country."



President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton and members of the Kennedy family visited the grave of John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, Nov. 20, 2013.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

Obama's remarks were a graceful acknowledgment of Bill Clinton's record, but they came with a sly wink at the complexities of a relationship between the president and his opinionated predecessor.

"I'm grateful, Bill, as well, for the advice you've offered me, on and off the golf course," Obama said, alluding, perhaps, to a recent report that the president chafed at his chatty golf companion and told his aides that he liked Clinton only "in doses."

As Obama struggles through one of the bleaker stretches of his presidency, Clinton has again taken on the role of critic, urging the president to fix the health care law to honor his pledge that, if people like their health insurance, they should be allowed to keep it.

He has also criticized Obama's Syria policy, saying that any president would be a "total fool" to avoid taking action to stem a brutal civil war because of public resistance to foreign engagement.

The White House insists that it welcomes Clinton's advice on health care, although some political analysts have speculated that he is distancing himself and his wife from an increasingly unpopular health care law, before Hillary Clinton runs for president in 2016. Obama alluded to Hillary Clinton only indirectly, thanking Bill Clinton for having patience "during the endless travels of my secretary of state."

In the East Room, the president also saluted two members of the Kennedy clan: Ethel Kennedy, the widow of Robert F. Kennedy, and Jack Schlossberg, the grandson of John F. Kennedy and son of Caroline Kennedy.

Among those on an unusually star-studded list of 16 recipients for the Presidential Medal of Freedom was Oprah Winfrey, the television entrepreneur; Dean Smith, the Hall of Fame college basketball coach; Bayard Rustin, the civil rights campaigner; Sally Ride, an astronaut who was the first U.S. woman in space; Benjamin C. Bradlee, the Watergate-era editor of The Washington Post; Daniel K. Inouye, the late senator from Hawaii; Loretta Lynn, the country music singer; and Gloria Steinem, the feminist writer. □



Michelle Obama, President Barack Obama, former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton leave a wreath by the grave of John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, Nov. 20, 2013. The visit was one of a number of events commemorating the life of Kennedy, who was assassinated 50 years ago, on Nov. 22, 1963.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)



## Congressman pleads guilty to cocaine possession

**MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT**

© 2013 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** - Rep. Trey Radel, R-Fla., pleaded guilty Wednesday to a misdemeanor charge stemming from his purchase of cocaine in Washington last month.

He was sentenced to one year of probation.

According to documents released by prosecutors, federal authorities learned this fall that Radel, a freshman legislator, had bought cocaine on several occasions for his own use in Washington and had sometimes shared it with others.

As part of a sting operation last month, an undercover police officer and an associate of Radel's met him at a restaurant near Dupont Circle, and Radel invited

them back to his apartment to use cocaine. After they declined, the officer told Radel that he had cocaine to sell.

Radel said he was interested, and after some negotiating, Radel agreed to buy 3.5 grams for \$250. They went outside, Radel gave the officer the money, and they went into a car where the officer gave him the cocaine.

When Radel got out of the car, he was approached by federal agents and he dropped the cocaine on the street.

Radel agreed to cooperate with authorities, meeting with them in his apartment, where he admitted making the purchase and gave them the cocaine he had in his apartment.

In a statement Tuesday,

Radel said he was "profoundly sorry to let down my family, particularly my wife and son, and the people of southwest Florida."

He added: "I struggle with the disease of alcoholism, and this led to an extremely irresponsible choice. As the father of a young son and a husband to a loving wife, I need to get help so I can be a better man for both of them."

Radel said he would seek counseling and treatment, "hopefully setting an example for others struggling with this disease."

"Please keep my family in your prayers," he added.

Radel is a former Florida television reporter and a conservative radio talk show host. He was elected to the House, his first public office, last year with 62

percent of the vote. His seat was previously held by Connie Mack, also a Republican.

In a statement, authorities said that the arrest of Radel was part of a larger investigation into cocaine trafficking in the Washington area.

Ronald C. Machen Jr., the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, said once the information about Radel had been confirmed, "law enforcement could not ignore this illegal conduct."

"Mr. Radel's guilty plea is similar to those entered every year by hundreds of other drug offenders in the District of Columbia who possess illegal narcotics," Machen said. "We appreciate his willingness to promptly accept responsibility for his conduct." □

## US bullying case: Charge dropped against one teen

**MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

**ORLANDO, Florida (AP)**

— One of two teenage U.S. girls charged with stalking a classmate who complained of being bullied before her suicide no longer faces any criminal counts, her attorney said Wednesday.

Attorney Jose Baez said the State Attorney's Office in Florida's Polk County had dropped the juvenile count of third-degree felony aggravated stalking.

Baez demanded an apology from the sheriff who arrested the 12-year-old and then placed her name and photo before television cameras at a news conference last month.

Sheriff Grady Judd announced the arrests last month of the 12-year-old and a 14-year-old. He said the two girls primarily were responsible for bullying Rebecca Sedwick, a 14-year-old who jumped to her death in September.

Baez described his client as a "troubled young girl" who had been bullied herself, and he said it was "reckless" for Judd to have arrested his client.

At a news conference just minutes after Baez's news conference ended, Judd said he didn't regret anything he did. He said that he is happy with the outcome and that the girls will receive "the services they need." "Our goal is that these kids never bully anyone again, never torment anyone again," Judd said. Baez said his client hasn't ruled out a lawsuit against the sheriff.

Brian Haas, a spokesman for the State Attorney's Office, said Florida law prevented him from commenting on juvenile cases.

At last month's news conference announcing the arrests, Judd said the bullying began about a year ago after the 14-year-old started dating Rebecca's ex-boyfriend. The older girl threatened to fight Rebecca and told her "to drink bleach and die," the sheriff said. □

## Health care website improving, but not fast enough

**ABBY GOODNOUGH**

© 2013 New York Times

**DOYLESTOWN, Pa.**

Tilda Elias had reason to be optimistic when she opened the HealthCare.gov website Monday, ready to help her first client of the week find health insurance. Technicians had made fixes to the online insurance exchange over the weekend. Even more promising, her client, Giovanna Romano, had managed to complete an online application at home with no problems.

But after Romano logged in, the system made her reconfirm everything in her application. Then came the screen message that tens of thousands of people shopping for insurance under President Barack Obama's new health care law have come to hate: "Sorry, our system is temporarily down."

Defeated, Elias, a "navigator" who helps people sign up for coverage, scheduled another appointment with Romano, a busy home health worker who could not return until December. "I'm not sure what happened here," Elias told her, shaking her head.

Despite weeks of work by a small army of software

experts to salvage HealthCare.gov, navigators in states that depend on the federal insurance exchange say they still cannot get most of their clients through the online enrollment process.

Those navigators said they had seen improvements in the system since its disastrous rollout Oct. 1, particularly in the initial steps of the application process. But the closer people come to signing up for a plan, the more the system seems to freeze or fail, many navigators said.

Administration officials say technicians have made significant improvements to sections that allow consumers to apply for insurance and compare health plans, and Obama this week encouraged people to continue trying. In congressional testimony Tuesday, Henry Chao, the chief digital architect of the federal online marketplace said that 30 percent to 40 percent of the project was still being built.

At Community Action of

Nebraska, a nonprofit group with a statewide network of navigators, Roger Furrer has witnessed the problems up close. Most applicants he worked this week could not get to the screen that shows their coverage options.

"That's really problematic," he said, "because if people are wavering already, they won't always come back and follow through."

Some navigators have rituals that they think might improve their access to the federal website. □



**Tilda Elias helps prospective Affordable Care Act marketplace enrollees at a clinic in the Doylestown Hospital in Doylestown, Pa. The navigators helping people sign up for coverage say they have seen improvements in the website since its Oct. 1 rollout, but agree that challenges remain.**

(Mark Makela/The New York Times)



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## Kerry: US and Karzai agree on language for new security pact

DEB RIECHMANN  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Secretary of State John Kerry says the U.S. and Afghanistan have agreed on the language of a bilateral security pact that could clear the way for thousands of U.S. troops to train and assist Afghan forces after the NATO combat mission ends in 2014. The agreement reached Wednesday is far from complete. The document now goes to the Loya Jirga, a 3,000-member council of elders who have the right to revise or reject any clause of the draft agreement. Whatever they agree upon then goes to the Afghan parliament, which could make still more changes before the agreement is approved. On the U.S. side, only the Obama administration needs to approve the agreement, but it could reject the changes made by Afghan officials. If it does, that leaves open the option for the U.S. to pull all troops out of Afghanistan. Such was the case in Iraq, when the U.S. and Iraq couldn't agree on terms of a security arrangement. Sectarian violence has plagued the country since, and some fear Afghanistan could head down that path without a continued U.S. presence until Afghan forces can defend the country themselves. Kerry said the language, agreed to after about a year of tense on-again, off-again negotiations, will be reflected in the draft proposal presented Thursday to the Loya Jirga in Kabul. "There were some people who may have questioned or doubted whether that was going to happen. Well, it's happening tomorrow, and it's happening to-

morrow with agreed-upon language between us," Kerry said during a news conference at the State Department with Australian officials and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. "We have agreed on the language that would be submitted to the Loya Jirga, but they have to pass it," Kerry said. The agreement would give the U.S. a legal basis for having forces in Afghanistan after 2014, and also allow it to use bases across the country. U.S. officials have not yet disclosed the number of U.S. troops they want to keep in Afghanistan after 2014. U.S. officials have said the U.S. and NATO could keep between 8,000 and 12,000 troops there. Of those, the U.S. is expected to provide no more than 8,000. Kerry said that whatever the number, the role of the U.S. military would be "limited." "It is entirely train, equip and assist. There is no combat role for United States forces, and the bilateral security agreement is a way to try to clarify for Afghans and for United States military forces exactly what the rules are with respect to that ongoing relationship," he said. Karzai's office posted a copy of the draft proposal on its website on Wednesday. According to the draft posted on the website, the agreement, as expected, gives the U.S. legal jurisdiction over troops and Defense Department civilians, while contractors would be subject to the Afghan judicial process. Deep divisions in Afghanistan over legal immunity for American soldiers and contractors as well as night raids had threatened to scuttle diplomatic efforts. □

## Search continues after Florida jet crash

JENNIFER KELLI KENNEDY  
Associated Press

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP)** — The U.S. Coast Guard searched Wednesday for two people aboard a jet that plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off Florida after finding the bodies of two others who were on the medical flight to Mexico. The Learjet 35 had just dropped a patient off at a South Florida hospital Tuesday night and had taken

whose bodies have been found. Airport spokesman Greg Meyer says the jet, run by AirEvac International, was carrying two pilots, a doctor and a nurse who were returning to Cozumel, Mexico. In a distress call, the pilot tells the air traffic control tower, "We have an engine failure," and he requests permission to return to the runway. "We're going to do a 180 and we're going to land,"

of operations for AirEvac International. He said the company had sent documents to the Mexican consulate to try to identify the deceased, a process that continued Wednesday afternoon. Carson promised there would be an investigation and said the company would be "transparent and open." The company's main bases of operation are in Mexico, Central America and South America and San Diego,



**U.S. Coast Chief Petty Officer Ryan Doss gives an update to the news media outside of the U.S. Coast Guard station in Dania Beach, Fla., Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013, regarding a search and rescue operation for two passengers on a Learjet on a medical flight en route to Mexico that crashed Tuesday night off the coast of Fort Lauderdale. Coast Guard officials say they are searching Wednesday for two people aboard a medical flight en route to Mexico that plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off Florida. The bodies of two others were already found.**

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

off from a private terminal at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport when it plunged into the water about a mile offshore, authorities said. Aboard the plane were pilots Jose Hiram Galvan de la O. and Josue Buendía Moreno and passengers Fernando Senties Nieto and Mariana Gonzalez Isunza, according to Mexico's Transportation Department. Mexican officials did say which were the two

he says. A few minutes later, in response to the tower's instructions, the pilot says, "Mayday, mayday, mayday." The company that runs the medical transport planes said their focus is on the victims, who had just picked up a patient in Costa Rica and dropped the patient off at a South Florida hospital. "These are people that are dedicated to saving lives," said Albert Carson, director

California, according to its website. Federal Aviation Administration officials warned of potential problems found in the Learjet 35 in June. According to the special bulletin, maintenance workers found cracks in the control column on Learjet Model 35A (C-21A) airplanes. Five airplanes were inspected and all five had cracks in the area at the base of the column where it attaches to the floor. □



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## Without any surprises, is the gift magic dead?

**LEANNE ITALIE**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Count Cynthia Gibson among gift recipients not interested in being surprised.

"Most of the time it's a disappointment, and I'm one of those people who don't hide their emotions very well," said Gibson, in Los Angeles. "The best gift is getting what you want." Natalie Caine begs to differ. She has a holiday ritual with some women friends: They do a surprise giveaway of something they have at home and want to pass on. Life is busy enough, she said, without having to hunt down your own gifts.

And besides, what about the magic?

"We already have too many to do lists," said Caine, a fellow Angeleno. "Let's enjoy bringing out our creative surprise giver and take a chance it is well received."

Welcome to gifting 3.0, when we can — and do — make our own dreams come true with a click or a list or a trip to the mall. That sounds just fine to Gibson. "A lot of people regift," she said. "If they didn't like it, what makes them think that I would like it?" And gift cards? Pffft. "That's for the truly lazy."

While gift registries, online and off, abound, along with old-fashioned list-making that you just turn over to mom or Santa, a couple of new websites are looking to bring back the surprise while also pleasing the picky, like Gibson.

According to the 2009 book "Scroogenomics:

Why You Shouldn't Buy Presents for the Holidays," by economist Joel Waldfogel, buying gifts is a lousy allocation of resources due to the ignorance of givers

together, picking each other's brains on color and style, Jessup said.

"A lot of other sites are focused on just pulling off of a list," she said. "We found

surprise when you rip into the wrapping paper," said co-founder Andrew Swick, who recalled a particularly vexing Christmas for one loved one in 2002.

boyfriend and his 22-year-old granddaughter. For years they kept their lists on a piece of paper, stuck to the refrigerator. It was inefficient as family members grew and flew the coop and led sometimes to duplicate gifts. "Now, we can share our ideas of surprise gifts with one another," he said. "They can't see the things that are secret."

Group registries are ready made for Christmas, when so much buying and so many lists are in play, Swick said from Houston. At his site, which has a Pinterest-like interface, you can also add a gift suggestion to a person's list and let them see it. In stealth mode, however, "It's almost like I'm pasting something to the person's Facebook wall that they can't see but everyone else can," Swick explained. "We make it a bit more collaborative."

The site, which was built out last year, has about 25,000 users, while Jessup's site got off the ground in earnest a couple of months ago and had not yet hit 1,000 users. Busy people benefit greatly. "Some people want to give personal gifts that are also a surprise and get down to the perfect gift without having to ask the receiver," Jessup said.

Gibson is single but has a big family — nieces, nephews, eight aunts and uncles and 18 cousins included. Well-meaning gifts, she said, often wind up in the back of a closet. But her heart isn't entirely hard.

"I'm still warmed by the gifters' attempts to give me something," she said. "I'm a soffie like that." □



**Shoppers lug their bags as they shop in downtown Chicago. While gift registries, online and off, abound, along with old-fashioned list-making that you just turn over to mom or Santa, a couple of new websites are looking to bring back the surprise while also pleasing the picky. Welcome to gifting 3.0, when we can — and do — make our own dreams come true with a click or a list or a trip to the mall.**

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh, File)

about the true preferences of their giftees. He estimated that about \$12 billion a year in the U.S. and \$25 billion a year worldwide is misallocated on giving at the holidays.

That is one reason Jessica Jessup decided to co-found Giftovus.com in San Diego, Calif. At Giftovus, a recipient puts together a list that loved ones can pluck from, if desired, while talking things over on a group page without the giftee seeing their activity. So, for example, if a gift recipient lists "bike," her group can drill down to-

among our own experiences and talking to other people there's definitely a group that wants to contribute their own ideas and personal touches to a gift. When people get back to that surprise, they realize what they've missed."

At CheckedTwice.com, giftees can create groups and share lists in one place. It allows for "secret gifts" to be added to lists by anybody in the group, hidden from the view of the list-maker but visible to everybody else. There's a comment area as well.

"You still get the thrill of

That's when his sister and site co-founder, Rebecca, unwrapped three identical volumes of Robert Frost poems she had coveted. The sentiment was in the right place — and then some.

"She had emailed out a wish list of ideas that people could get her," he said. "Then she came up with this idea. It was really designed to organize and stop that duplicate gift problem without ruining the surprise."

Attorney Dave Howard in Round Rock, Texas, uses the site with his wife, daughter, his daughter's



## US Financial Front:

# American retail sales rise solid 0.4 percent in October

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

American consumers shrugged off the 16-day partial government shutdown and spent more on autos, clothing and furniture in October, boosting retail sales by the most in four months.

Sales rose 0.4 percent, up from a flat reading in September, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Overall sales were slightly held back by a steep drop in gasoline prices. Excluding sales at gas stations, retail spending rose an even stronger 0.5 percent.

Core sales, a category that excludes volatile spending on autos, building supplies and gas, also rose 0.5 percent, up from a 0.3 percent gain in September.

The retail sales gain indicates that consumers stepped up spending at the start of the October-December quarter. Their spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

Economists were encouraged by the solid October gain.

"This release provides yet more evidence that, despite the shutdown, the economy is gaining momentum," said Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

Dales said a strong start to the October-December quarter could mean that consumer spending will grow at an annual rate of 2 percent to 2.5 percent this quarter. That would mark a sharp improvement from the 1.5 percent annual growth in consumer spending in the July-September quarter.

Economists say they think cheaper gas will help boost sales during the crucial holiday shopping season. Gas prices have fallen sharply since Labor Day and now are around \$3.21, the lowest level in nearly two years. A sharp drop in auto sales caused largely by a calendar quirk had dampened retail sales in September.

Labor Day weekend auto sales were counted in August. But in October, auto sales 1.3 percent, reversing September's 1.2 percent decline.

In October, sales at department stores rose 0.5 percent after having fallen 0.6 percent in September. There were also solid sales gains at furniture stores, electronics and appliance stores and specialty clothing stores.

In addition to the drop at gas stations, sales at building supply stores fell 1.9 percent in October.

Growth in consumer spending slowed from July through September and economists have been concerned that spending may remain lackluster given weak income growth and the lingering impact of higher federal taxes at the start of the year.

Unemployment remains still high at 7.3 percent, and those Americans who have jobs are not seeing much in the way of pay increases. That's contributed to their more cautious mood.

But in one encouraging sign, hiring has picked up in recent months. The economy created 204,000 jobs last month, many more than expected. Employers have added an average of 202,000 jobs per month from August through October. That's up sharply from an average of 146,000 in May through July.

The overall economy grew at an annual rate of 2.8 percent in the July-September quarter, faster than expected, and up from 2.5 percent growth in the April-June quarter. But much of the growth came from an increase in business stockpiling. Without a corresponding increase in spending, many economists think companies will cut back on restocking in the October-December quarter, which would slow economic growth.

Most analysts have said they think the economy is growing at a weak annual rate below 2 percent in the current quarter. □




Clothing is modeled on mannequins in a retail store's window display in Baltimore. American consumers shrugged off the 16-day partial government shutdown and spent more on autos, clothing and furniture in October, boosting retail sales by the most in four months.



(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

## Come and Join Us

# Thanksgiving Buffet

Thursday, November 28, 2013 - 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
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**Soup**  
Pumpkin Soup | Seafood Chowder

**Gourmet Salad Bar**  
Peel & Eat Shrimp with cocktail sauce  
Seafood Ceviche | Marinated Fish | Artichoke Hearts | Coleslaw  
Salads: An assortment of Baby Lettuce, Condiments and Dressings, plus Antipasto, Potato, Macaroni, Egg, Grilled Vegetable, Baby Mozzarella  
Assorted Maki Sushi | International assorted Cheese Display


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## ECB: Slack economy raises stimulus question

**DAVID McHUGH**  
AP Business Writer  
**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)**

— Alarmingly low inflation and weak growth have led officials at the European Central Bank to consider what had once seemed unthinkable: A Federal Reserve-like program of large-scale bond purchases to jolt the region's economy. Even though the topic appears to be up for discus-

Journal. And Vice President Vitor Constancio did the same on Tuesday. Such purchases, dubbed quantitative easing or QE, by economists, involve using newly created money to buy financial assets such as bonds from private-sector institutions. That can drive down longer-term interest rates, increase the supply of money

discussion about QE was the fall in the eurozone's inflation rate to 0.7 percent in the year to October, way below the ECB's goal of just under 2 percent. That raised a new worry for a region that's grappled with a debt crisis and a weak economy for years: does Europe face outright deflation — a corrosive, chronic fall in prices that has afflicted Japan for years? Or



**A homeless man rubs his eyes as another man passes by outside the EU Council building in Brussels. Europe's economy is set to continue its recovery through the next year, but at a subdued pace that will leave unemployment near record highs.**

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

sion, analysts say that the ECB may never take such a drastic step for both political and practical reasons. That's even though others, including the U.S. Federal Reserve, have used such purchases to try to stimulate their economies. But the mere fact that several top ECB officials are talking about asset purchases represents a bit of a shift.

Executive board member Peter Praet mentioned the possibility of purchasing assets during an interview last week with the Wall Street

in the economy and boost growth. It can also lower a country's exchange rate, bringing trade advantages. For years, ECB officials said very little about QE even though other central banks took the plunge. The idea is met with skepticism in Germany, in particular, where many regard it as potentially inflationary and unduly rewards those indebted governments who have failed to take the necessary steps to shore up their economies. The catalyst for the current

is the drop caused by benign factors such as lower fuel prices, and efforts of indebted countries such as Greece, Portugal and Spain to lower their relative prices to make their economies competitive again? ING analyst Carsten Brzeski said the ECB's primary mandate — pursuing stable prices — means that German objections become weaker if deflation is a real threat. He added that serious obstacles remain such as strained bank finances in southern Europe. □

## France: Possible newspaper attack suspect arrested

**THOMAS ADAMSON**  
Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — French police arrested a man Wednesday night believed to be the suspect in a Paris newspaper office shooting that left a photographer gravely wounded and in other attacks that triggered a two-day nationwide manhunt, authorities said. The motive for the attacks remains unclear.

Agnes Thibault-Lecuivre, a spokeswoman for the French prosecutor's office, said that "a suspect with a strong resemblance to the shooter" was arrested in an underground parking lot in Bois-Colombes, 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of Paris. She and police union official Christophe Crepin said the man appeared heavily medicated when he was detained. Crepin and French media said he was taken to a nearby hospital, though the prosecutor's office could not confirm that. "My colleagues noticed he was not very lucid. They deduced that he had taken medicines, because of the capsules nearby. They called the ambulance, which brought him to the hospital. There he is incarcerated but in a medical environment," Crepin told The Associated Press.

Authorities believed a lone gunman was involved in Monday's shooting at the prominent daily newspaper Liberation, a shooting outside French bank Societe Generale, a brief hostage-taking in which the suspect hijacked a car, and a similar shooting incident three days before at

news network BFM-TV.

Authorities released video footage and photos of the shooter who was wielding a pump-action shotgun. The shooting prompted cries of concern about attacks on the media. The culture minister called Liberation — an outspoken left-leaning paper founded by Jean-Paul Sartre that has seen financial difficulties and layoffs in recent years — a "pillar of our democracy."

Security was tightened at media offices and on the busy Champs-Elysees shopping avenue.

In a sign of the jumpy mood, police in the southern town of Perigueux upped security at schools, churches and public buildings Wednesday after an armed man was spotted in the street. Police later said he had nothing to do with the Paris attacks.

The gunman entered the lobby of Liberation around 10 a.m. Monday and opened fire. A 23-year-old photographer, who works at the paper as a freelance assistant, was in intensive care after being shot near the heart and in the arm. Less than two hours after the shooting at Liberation, three shots were fired in front of the headquarters of the bank Societe Generale in the Paris suburb of La Defense, according to Paris police. Societe Generale said no one was hurt. Less than an hour later, a man called police to say he had been taken hostage by a gunman in the town of Puteaux, next door to La Defense. □



## "Strange Alliance": Israel, Gulf share common ground against Iran interests

**BRIAN MURPHY**  
**Associated Press**

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — When U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry made another stop in the Middle East this month, he received an expected earful over Washington's outreach to Iran: Don't trust Tehran, tighten sanctions even more, anything short of complete nuclear concessions is a grave mistake.

Kerry's meeting wasn't in Israel, though. It was in Riyadh, listening to Saudi leaders.

In one of the region's oddest pairings, Israel and the Gulf Arab states led by Saudi Arabia increasingly are finding common ground — and a common political language — on their mutual dismay over Iran's history-making overtures to Washington and the prospect of a nuclear deal in Geneva that could curb Tehran's atomic program but leave the main elements intact, such as uranium enrichment.

"The adage about 'the enemy of my enemy is my friend' is playing out over Iran," said Theodore Karasik, a security and political affairs analyst at the Dubai-based Institute for Near East and Gulf Military Analysis. "This situation opens up some interesting possibilities as it all shakes out."

There seems little chance of major diplomatic breakthroughs between Israel and the Gulf's array of ruling monarchs and sheiks. But their shared worries over Iran's influence and ambitions already has brought back-channel contacts and "intimate relationships" on defense and other strategic interests through forums such

as the U.N., said Dan Gillerman, a former Israeli ambassador to the world body.

The stepped-up anxieties on Iran could bring new

ian rebels in a proxy war with Iran, the main Middle East backers of Bashar Assad's government. Iran's other loyal force, Lebanon's Hezbollah, is also in

out a pair of suicide bombings at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut that killed 23 people, including an Iranian diplomat, in an attack that was widely seen as retaliation

look more to Saudi assistance and intelligence in efforts to undercut Hezbollah, which has fired rockets into Israel and waged a 2006 war. Saudi Arabia also gave important backing the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 with Israel and could assume an even greater role in future Israel-Palestinian talks.

"A nuclear deal ... is likely to intensify behind-the-scenes political cooperation between the Persian Gulf states and Israel, especially when it comes to lobbying in Washington and in Brussels," said Meir Javedanfar, an Iranian-born political analyst based in Israel.

Already, there has been some curious cross currents by foes viewing Israel and Saudi Arabia as being on the same page.

After the Beirut bombings, Iran's foreign minister blamed Israel for the attacks. Hezbollah and Syrian officials, however, indirectly pointed the finger at Saudi Arabia, which is a leading backer of Syrian rebel factions along with Gulf ally Qatar. □



**In this November 2013 photo, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry walks to his plane after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, Israel. In an unexpected consequence of the global diplomacy over Iran, Israel and Gulf Arab states led by Saudi Arabia are boosting back-channel contacts and finding increasing common ground over their mutual dismay with Tehran's drive to mend ties with the West and reach a nuclear deal. The "strange alliance" — in the word of one former diplomat — highlights how the ripples from Iran are driving some allies apart while pushing foes closer. It also highlights the Sunni world's distress at the possibility of a bomb in the hands of a Shiite power. (AP Photo/Jason Reed)**

space for the Gulf-Israel overlap.

Egypt's military-backed government, which ousted the Iran-friendly Muslim Brotherhood, could be an easy fit into a regional bloc standing against Iran and demanding tougher lines from Washington, which has been roundly criticized by some for abandoning its longstanding allies in favor of trying to settle the nuclear standoff with Iran.

Egypt's leadership depends on Gulf money as a lifeline and seeks to rebuild its ties with Israel, whose peace treaty with Cairo was considered a historical annoyance by the Muslim Brotherhood.

Saudi and other Gulf states are critical money-and-weapons pipelines to Syr-

the mix in Syria. On Tuesday, an al-Qaida-linked group claimed it carried

tion against Hezbollah and Lebanon's role in Syria. Israel may now be able to



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## Suicide bomber kills 11 soldiers in Egypt

**HAMZA HENDAWI**

**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — A suicide car bomb hit a bus convoy of off-duty Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai Peninsula on Wednesday, killing 11 and wounding 37, in the latest of a stepped-up wave of attacks blamed on Islamic militants sympathetic to

agencies' ranks, including a hunt for possible Islamist "moles" amid officials' suspicions that Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood is linked to the violence — an accusation the group denies.

Nearly two dozen employees with sensitive posts in the Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police, are be-

state under Mubarak.

For several months, the military has been carrying out intensified raids in the towns and villages of northern Sinai, hunting for militants.

In Wednesday's attack, a convoy of four army buses was transporting soldiers taking battlefield breaks



**A destroyed bus after a suicide attacker drove an explosive-laden car into the bus at the road between the border town of Rafah and the coastal city of el-Arish, Egypt, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013. A suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into one of two buses carrying off-duty soldiers in Egypt's turbulent region of northern Sinai on Wednesday, killing nearly a dozen and wounding dozens more, security and military officials said.**

(AP Photo)

ousted President Mohamed Morsi.

The mounting insurgency in the restive Sinai has sent security and intelligence agencies scrambling for new tactics to thwart future attacks and protect themselves amid signs of the violence creeping into other parts of Egypt, particularly the capital, Cairo. Among the attacks that have raised alarm was the killing of a senior security officer who monitors Islamist groups, gunned down in his Cairo neighborhood Sunday night. At dawn Wednesday, assailants threw a grenade at a police checkpoint in a northern Cairo suburb, injuring four policemen, according to security officials said. The assailants fled the scene, said the officials.

The violence has prompted a shakeup within security

ing probed for Brotherhood sympathies or for providing information to the group, according to senior security and military officials with first-hand knowledge of the discussions inside the agencies. Also, security officials who were removed or transferred from key positions during Morsi's year-long presidency are being reinstated, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to talk about the agencies' workings.

The surge in militant violence harkens back to the Islamic insurgency in the 1980s and 1990s, when militants — mainly based in southern Egypt — fought Hosni Mubarak's government to install a purist Islamic state.

The militants were eventually crushed by a fierce security crackdown that helped solidify the police

along a main road linking the provincial capital el-Arish with the town of Rafah, on the border with Gaza. The soldiers in the convoy belonged to the 2nd Field Army, which is doing most of the fighting in the Sinai anti-militant campaign.

An explosives-laden car with two people in it rammed into the lead bus and exploded, military spokesman Mohammed Ahmed Ali said in a statement.

Military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi attended a ceremony as the bodies of the soldiers were brought to a Cairo military airfield.

"This treacherous attack only increases our resolve, and we will not allow those who raise arms to destroy this nation or repress its people," he said as he gave condolences to families of the dead, according to a military statement. □

## Venezuela signs joint venture with S. Korean giant Samsung

**JORGE RUEDA**

**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Venezuela signed a strategic alliance Wednesday with South Korean electronics giant Samsung, agreeing to jointly produce consumer electronics and major appliances after a week of raids on retailers and the emptying of store shelves by consumers taking advantage of government-forced discounts.

Rafael Ramirez, Venezuela's longtime oil minister and now vice president for the economy, signed the agreement with Samsung's regional president, Hyun Chil Hong, a day after the National Assembly gave President Nicolas Maduro powers to rule by decree for up to 12 months.

Economists consulted by The Associated Press said they expect Maduro will tighten government controls on the economy to the detriment of private enterprise. Samsung will initially invest \$50 million in the factory and Venezuela will take a controlling interest, said Ramirez. Its location, output and start date won't be announced for at least a month. In the meantime, the Venezuelan state will directly import 400,000 Samsung major home appliances and other electronics worth about \$100 million to arrive in "the coming days," Ramirez told reporters at the signing ceremony.

He said they would come from Samsung plants in Brazil, Mexico and Argentina. Rather than a sign of investor trust, the Samsung-government alliance underscores what is fast becoming the prevailing business model in an inflation-plagued economy, with the government supplanting private business and directly supplying goods to stores at fixed, discounted prices.

"All countries have their problems," Hong said when asked why Samsung would invest in a country with a distressed economy. "I think we can overcome this type of situation with good collaboration."

Economists say the Venezuelan government directly imports more than 40 percent of consumer goods, compared to 15 percent in the late 1990s when the late Hugo Chavez was first elected president and steered the economy of the major oil producing-nation toward greater state control. He died in March.

Venezuela signed a similar agreement earlier this month with Mexican appliance maker Mabe to produce and sell stoves, refrigerators and other durable goods at "fair prices" well below what consumers have grown accustomed to amid soaring inflation.

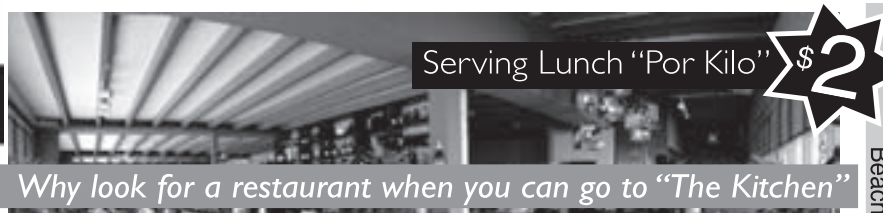
In exchange for billions of dollars in loans, the Venezuelan government is also a major buyer of Chinese-made goods that stock the shelves of a government-run retail chain. Maduro on Nov. 8 ordered the military to take control of several retail chains accused of gouging consumers by charging prices that he says don't reflect the exchange rate the government uses to mete out increasingly-scarce dollars. More than a week later, long lines and armed soldiers are still found outside Caracas stores that the government intervened in, as well as other retailers that were untouched but nevertheless spooked into marking down their inventory by up to 70 percent. While the nationwide fire sale is rallying Maduro's supporters ahead of next month's key mayoral elections, it hasn't staunch demand for U.S. dollars in the illegal black market, where the bolivar has plunged in recent weeks to a tenth of its official value.

Instead of devaluing the currency, which would add to inflation already at a two-decade high of 54 percent, Maduro is vowing to keep prices low through Christmas and begin setting prices and profit levels across industries. □



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# Funerals held in Lebanon for Iran Embassy victims

**ZEINA KARAM**  
**Associated Press**

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Undeterred by a devastating suicide attack that rocked the Iranian Embassy in Beirut a day earlier, hundreds of Hezbollah supporters pumped their fists in the air Wednesday and vowed eternal allegiance to the Lebanese Shiite militant group as they buried victims from the bombing. Hezbollah's deputy leader Naim Kassem said the group will not be dissuaded from supporting Syrian President Bashar Assad in his country's civil war, describing recurrent attacks on Shiite strongholds in Lebanon as "inevitable pains on the road to victory."

The attack, by two suicide bombers who detonated their explosives outside the mission's metal gates, killed 23 people, including an Iranian diplomat and embassy guards. More than 140 others were wounded, according to the Health Ministry.

The bombing was the latest in a series of attacks that have struck Lebanese Shiite areas in recent months, some of which Sunni radicals claimed they made in retaliation for Hezbollah's backing of Assad's forces against the overwhelmingly Sunni rebels fighting to overthrow him in Syria's increasingly sectarian conflict.

An al-Qaida-linked militant group claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack — the deadliest targeting of Iranian interests since the uprising against Assad began in March 2013. Iran has been a staunch supporter of Assad's government, and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah has been instrumental in helping his troops

flush out insurgents from key areas near the Lebanese border.

Hezbollah has defended its actions in Syria, calling it a necessary and existential fight against Sunni extremists who increasingly dominate the rebellion there.

Hezbollah's Kassem dismissed accusations that the group's cross-border

intervention had brought on the attacks in Lebanon, telling its radio station: "This terrorist attack will not deter us from our course."

Assad's view of the war — that it is a fight against terrorism and not a revolt against his family's decades long rule — has been echoed by Hezbollah and was on full display at

Wednesday's procession in southern Beirut.

"Death to America, Israel and the takfiris!" shouted hundreds mourning four of the dead, in the predominantly Shiite Ghobeiri district. Takfiris refer to Sunni radicals. Hezbollah supporters routinely denounce the U.S and Israel.

"If Hezbollah wasn't taking

part in the battles in Syria, the takfiris would have long invaded our homes and slaughtered us all like they are doing in Syria," said Ghada Samaha, a 45-year-old Hezbollah supporter taking part in the funeral.

The woman, wearing a head-to-toe black covering known as a chador, said she was ready to sacrifice her three sons for the fight in Syria, if Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said it was necessary.

"I don't have a problem with it. This is what we want," she said.

The bravado is typical of the group's supporters, who tend to close ranks and rally around their leadership in times of trouble. But the repeated attacks against Shiite strongholds have raised questions on how far the community is willing to go in its support, particularly as the attacks become more sophisticated.

Tuesday's strike was the first suicide bombing to target Shiite areas in Lebanon since the war in Syria started. □



Lebanese woman throw flowers as Hezbollah supporters carry the coffins of four people, including Radwan Fares, a Lebanese national who headed the facility's security, who were killed a day after two suicide bombings struck the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, during their funeral procession, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013. Thousands of people attended the funerals in Ghobeiri, a stronghold of Hezbollah in southern Beirut. At least 23 people were killed and more than 140 were wounded in Tuesday's twin suicide attacks.

(AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

## 2 detained, another sought in Mexico massacre

**CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico**  
**(AP)** — Mexican police

have detained two suspects and are seeking a third in the stabbing massacre of eight family members in this border city, and prosecutors said Wednesday that they were looking into whether the killing was linked to the father's possible gambling debts from dog fights.

Three young children were among those killed in the weekend crime that shocked Ciudad Juarez. It came just a few weeks after gunmen killed 10 people,

including four children, who were celebrating in a home just outside the city. The chief prosecutor in the northern state of Chihuahua, Jorge Gonzalez Nicolas, said the two suspects detained Tuesday are border assembly plant workers aged 21 and 31. Because one of them knew the family, the children might have been killed because they could have recognized him, he said.

Gonzalez Nicolas said a third suspect had been identified and would likely be detained soon.

He said investigators were looking at gambling debts that may have been run up by the father at dog fights as a possible motive in the Sunday slayings.

"The situation got out of control and that's why they killed them," Gonzalez Nicolas said. "They took money and three vehicles. It was all apparently because of a bet made at a pit bull dog fight."

Chihuahua Gov. Cesar Duarte told local media the government would seek life sentences for the killers if convicted. While life

sentences are rare in Mexico, in 2010 the Chihuahua state legislature approved a law introducing life imprisonment for certain murder cases, including multiple murders or torturing victims before killing them. Dozens of friends and relatives of the two suspects demonstrated late Tuesday outside the prosecutors' offices in Ciudad Juarez, claiming authorities had detained innocent men in their rush to prosecute.

"The people you have behind bars are innocent! Do your job!" the crowd chanted. □



## Too fat to fly: Stranded Frenchman's ordeal ending

**DANICA KIRKA**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — He's been turned down by planes, trains and even a cruise ship in his quest to return home — and his family says it's because he has been deemed too fat to travel. Now Frenchman Kevin Chenais' long and fitful journey is coming to an end.

Chenais, who weighs 500 pounds (230 kilograms), says he has been repeatedly refused transport over the past two weeks as he sought to get home to France from the United

distressing and traumatic situation."

The odyssey began when British Airways refused to honor his return ticket from the United States, where he spent months receiving medical care for a hormone imbalance.

"When we talked about this problem with British Airways that Kevin was too fat ... (they said) abandon any intention of coming back to France," Kevin's father, Rene, told RTL Radio. "From the fact of his incapacity, his obesity, he was not considered to be a normal being, but more

Chenais said Carnival Cruises also rejected his request for a cabin on a trans-Atlantic voyage. The company declined to comment.

Virgin Atlantic airlines stepped in to fly him to London, where he had planned to take the Eurostar train home. But Eurostar refused to allow him on board because of safety rules governing travel through the Channel Tunnel: The high-speed train that connects England to France and Belgium requires all passengers to have the ability to be



**Kevin Chenais sits in his mobility scooter in front of an ambulance at St Pancras in London, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013. Kevin, who suffers from a medical condition will travel by ambulance and ferry back to France. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)**

States. P&O Ferries offered to take him in his ambulance aboard the Spirit of Britain on Wednesday, the final hurdle keeping him from his home near the Swiss border.

"I am absolutely tired," the 22-year-old said as he slumped over in his mobility scooter just before being loaded into the ambulance.

Chenais' mother was outraged by the treatment her son allegedly received, saying he was discriminated against because of his weight.

"It's not the fault of my son to be big. He has a genetic illness," Christina Chenais said. "We are very happy to go home after this long,

like a problem."

BA acknowledges that it refused to let Chenais board the plane, but said confidentiality rules prevent it from saying why. BA insisted that it does not discriminate against customers for any reason and that the airline provides the option of an extra seat to people who contact them with concerns about seat width.

"We respect the privacy of the customer so cannot comment on any changes in circumstance between arrival and departure dates," the company said in a statement. British Airways declined to say what the changes in circumstance had been.

safely evacuated — and Chenais' obesity-caused lack of mobility made that impossible.

"This is a terrible situation," Eurostar said in a statement. "Our heart goes out to Mr. Chenais and his family who are understandably desperate to return home after being stranded in America."

Eurostar paid for the family's hotel room and worked with P&O to find a solution. "It's difficult to imagine the frustration that this gentleman has gone through," P&O spokesman Chris Laming said in a statement. "But for us, it's very straightforward, as we are set up to carry people who have medical needs." □

## Puerto Rico president attempts to break power company monopoly

**DANICA COTO**  
**Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— The president of Puerto Rico's Senate presented 10 measures on Wednesday he said will help break the monopoly of the largest power company in any U.S. jurisdiction and lead to cheaper electric bills.

Sen. Eduardo Bhatia's announcement comes amid mounting anger in the U.S. territory over an ongoing economic crisis and power bills that are on average more than twice those on the U.S. mainland.

"It has turned into an extremely inefficient and extremely expensive company," he said. "This is over. Puerto Rico cannot continue to be held hostage by a single company that forces it to pay 27 cents per kilowatt hour."

The state Electric Energy Authority has long controlled the production, generation and regulation of power in Puerto Rico. It also faces numerous corruption allegations, with legislators noting the agency operates with little oversight, regulation and transparency.

Last month, Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla announced he would overhaul the company and create a public service commission to regulate the agency and oversee its contracts, operations and expenses. Bhatia said he plans to meet with Garcia to talk about the bills he submitted, saying they both are working toward the same

goals.

Some of Bhatia's measures would open the market and allow the government to buy power from other companies, as well as help pay off the agency's \$10 billion debt.

"It is worth less than what it owes," Bhatia said of the utility.

The measures also promise to cut power bills nearly in half by 2016, and would force the power agency to first submit its rates to a public service commission for approval. Customers the first time would be able to file lawsuits if the agency does not comply with public policy.

The president of Puerto Rico's Manufacturers Association said the proposal would help open the industry up to competition and boost the island's economy.

"Puerto Rico's socioeconomic growth can only be achieved if the cost of operating business here goes down," Waleska Rivera said.

Juan Alicea Flores, executive director of the Electric Energy Authority, said he welcomed the proposals, noting the agency is already trying to stabilize its finances and improve customer service, among other things.

Puerto Rico currently depends on oil to generate nearly 70 percent of its power, and Bhatia said the power company generates up to 80 percent in excess power, passing along that cost to consumers. □

## Bolivia decrees special Christmas bonus

**LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)** — Pres-

ident Evo Morales has just announced a Christmas bonus for Bolivia's public employees: an extra month's salary.

But the leftist president's surprise announcement also upset private companies because he said they should also pay the special bonus. It was not immediately clear whether they would be legally bound to do so.

Bolivia is among countries obliging all employers to pay their workers an extra

monthly wage in December.

Morales' decree means Bolivia's 300,000 public employees, whose median salary is about \$500 a month, will get a third monthly wage during the month.

The bonus will continue as long as Bolivia's gross domestic product grows by at least 4.5 percent annually. The government says GDP is expected to grow about 6.7 percent this year.

Morales is up for re-election in 2014. □





## Aruba Welcomes King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima



King and Queen waved at the crowd, mostly dressed in orange, red white and blue, while they walked by. Queen Maxima, known for her great taste in fashion, looked amazing. Her fluorescent orange dress perfectly matched her shoes and purse. With a big smile the royal couple greeted the locals who were waving at them with little Dutch flags. It was clear that the Aruba people love the new King as much as they did this mother former Queen Beatrix.

More activities and events will take place on the island before the Royal Couple visits Colombia and Venezuela and returns to the Netherlands. □



both the Dutch and the Aruban hymn. After that, the official inspection of the Marine Corps started, done by our

newly crowned King Willem-Alexander. All Marines looked spectacular! With live music and dance groups along the route, the

**ORANJESTAD** - Yesterday thousands of people came over to the Parliament Building to catch a glimpse of King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima. A very well organized event ended up to be successful

for the local and international press, invited guests, kids with teachers or parents and of course the Royal Couple. The official greeting by Parliament and Aruba's Political leaders started off with





## Marriott elevates commitment to Green Aruba with opening of the Ritz-Carlton!

**- Marriott Executive Chairman and Prime Minister Mike Eman Announce Joint Education and Sustainability Programs at Hotel Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.**

**PALM BEACH** - As the new Ritz-Carlton, Aruba opens its doors to welcome luxury guests to the island of Aruba on Friday, November 22, 2013, J. W. "Bill" Marriott Jr., Executive Chairman of Marriott International, the parent company of the iconic Ritz-Carlton brand with two existing Marriott hotels on the island, announced today several new partnership initiatives to promote sustainable tourism on the island. The collaboration is designed to further enhance Prime Minister Mike Eman's vision for a Green Aruba while continuing Marriott's long-standing commitment to enriching education on the island. "Aruba is at the forefront for travelers who seek elegant accommodations, a beautiful climate and unparalleled beaches, where they can enjoy pristine nature and leave nothing more than their footprints in the sand," said Mr. Marriott. "To support that sustainable vision, we are pleased and honored to present an environmental curriculum tailored to

Aruba for 5th and 6th grade primary school students on the island, introduce youth to leadership skills through our Ritz-Carlton Succeed Through Service program and support the government's vision for a tourism institute that will be a magnet for hospitality professionals hoping to pursue careers in the growing Caribbean and Latin America tourism economy."

During Mr. Marriott's last visit to the island the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mike Eman requested Mr. Marriott's support for the establishment of an Institute for Hospitality, Sustainable Tourism and Economic Resilience in Aruba.

"My vision is for Aruba to be renowned as one of the region's most notable hospitality destinations, home to a distinguished local workforce that is well educated and skilled in environmenta tremendous partner throughout the years with their Marriott and Renaissance Hotels. The opening of The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba amplifies the brand's economic impact even further with 320 hotel rooms and 450 local jobs. In addition land's economic standing and we are confident the institute will make a substantial impact to the quality and growth

of tourism in the region," he added.

The signature new programs that debut in Aruba with The Ritz-Carlton, AruMurphy of Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society. The education modules will be available on the Green Aruba website for others in the travel industry to download,

water stay.

-Succeed through Service, The Ritz-Carlton's distinguished Community Footprints program, which introduces youth to skills necessary to succeed and the ability to serve others. The Ladies and Gentlemen of The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba will be working in tandem with

-The Ritz-Carlton will launch its Community Footprints program in Aruba at Arikok National Park with the management team and trainers volunteering at Dos Playa to remove marine debris and driftwood from this important sea turtle nesting site. Community Footprints is The Ritz-Carlton's global conser-



allowing for easy accessibility by Arubans to learn about the island's unique environmental assets and how to protect them.

-As part of the program launch, students will be invited to Skype with Fabien Cousteau, grandson of legendary oceanographer Jacques Cousteau, while he is undertaking Mission 31 to break his grandfather's world record for an under-

youth on the island to help develop skills required for success while boosting their self-esteem.

-A commitment from the J.W. and Alice S. Marriott Foundation to support the creation of the Aruba Hospitality Institute, Prime Minister Eman's vision for sustainable hospitality management training. Marriott International will also supplement the curriculum that is being provided by the academic partners in the Institute by contributing leadership development and training content to be delivered by Marriott executives.

-A partnership with Tortugarruba to bring best practices in sea turtle conservation to Aruba, including a regional summit to be hosted at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba.

vation and community engagement initiative.

With 320 oceanfront rooms and suites, The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba offers a luxury vacation lifestyle that combines a passionate and dedicated service philosophy while catering to an array of personal tastes and interests. The resort encompasses incomparable style and signature Ritz-Carlton service, with a selection of unique offerings consisting of savory dining experiences, including four restaurants, a luxurious 13-treatment room Ritz-Carlton Spa, two swimming pools, a 24-hour casino, one of the largest state-of-the-art meeting facilities in Aruba and the seemingly endless white sand beaches and turquoise waters of the Caribbean. □

**Beauty On The Beach**

*Veronica Eid*

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# Acqua Condominium Aruba: The Essence of a Lifestyle

**PALM BEACH** – Acqua Condominium Aruba, a project spearheaded by Acqua Construction, on 325,278 sq. ft. of prime property land on Palm Beach announced recently that construction has been progressing at a satisfactory pace and that the sales gallery as well as the model-suite within the Sabbia Tower, are ready to welcome tours and inquiries, seven days a week. The developer has also recently incentivized your purchase with the following super deals! Right now, with a deposit of 30%, you will receive 10% discount,

and with a deposit of 50% your discount becomes 15%! Additionally enticing, by paying in full you will receive 25% discount! At Acqua a beautiful two bedroom apartment with two bathrooms starts at \$296,800, with a cash deal on this price starting at \$222,600. The Sabbia Tower, overlooking Palm Beach boasts 208, 2-bedroom condos, with 2 baths each, spread over 14 floors. The two top building floors embrace 16 penthouse apartments with majestic views. The two condo towers, on the already fully-fenced

property, will be complemented by a two-story shopping complex, facing the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, with commercial space for trendy restaurants and up-scale shops. Making the decision on a purchase, and acting on it fast, was recently made even more imperative, in view of the fact that the island government of Aruba reiterated its commitment to a building moratorium for the next 10 years, making Acqua Condominium a truly unique investment opportunity, as it is the one and only high-rise condo project, on property land, in the island's most-desired location. If the image of Aqua Condominium tugs at your heartstrings, you are invited to visit the sales gallery and the elegant model-suites available for viewing, fully finished with luxurious touches and high-end amenities. The sales center is open



Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm; Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 2pm: A gorgeous model unit is available for you to preview! Meet the sales team who will guide you through the purchase of the stylish con-

do of your dreams, allowing you to return to Aruba as often as you wish. You will find the website very helpful with all legal documents, floor plans, furnishings and finishings, posted on line: [www.acquaruba.com](http://www.acquaruba.com). □



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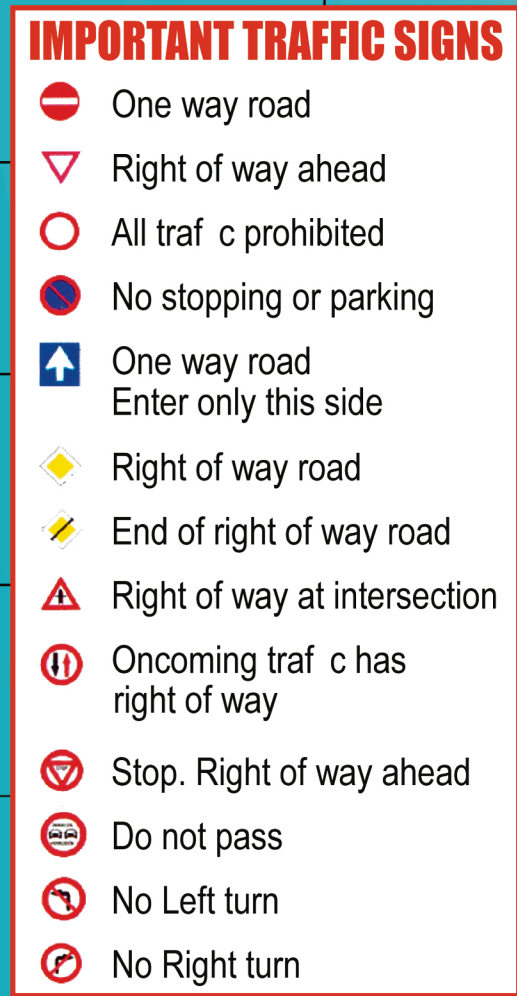
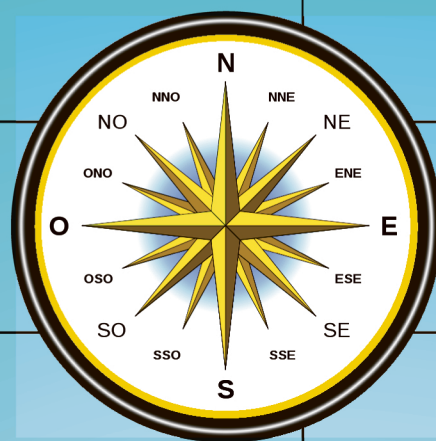
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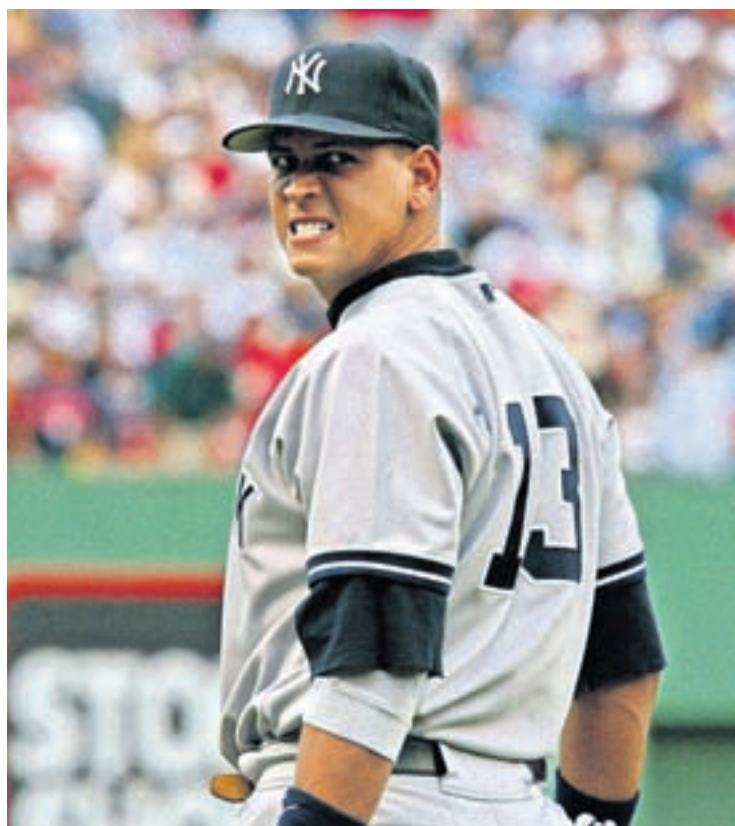
## Rodriguez walks out of own grievance hearing

**RONALD BLUM**  
AP Sports Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Alex Rodriguez walked out of his own grievance hearing on Wednesday after arbitrator Fredric Horowitz refused to order baseball Commissioner Bud Selig to testify. Horowitz was in the midst of the 11th day of hearings on the grievance filed by the players' association to overturn the 211-game suspension given to Rodriguez by Major League Baseball last summer for alleged violations of the sport's drug agreement and labor contract.

"I'm done. I don't have a chance. You let the arbiter decide whatever he decides," Rodriguez said during an interview on WFAN radio. "My position doesn't change. I didn't do it."

Continued on Page 20



In this July 2004 file photo, New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez reacts to heckling from Boston Red Sox fans during a game at Fenway Park in Boston.

Associated Press

## Dierdorf to retire from broadcasting after NFL season



In this Oct. 16, 2006, file photo, former St. Louis Cardinals offensive lineman Dan Dierdorf waves to fans as he is inducted into the Arizona Cardinals' ring of honor during a ceremony at halftime of a football game against the Chicago Bears in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Hall of Famer Dan Dierdorf is retiring from broadcasting after 43 straight years involved with the NFL. CBS announced Wednesday that he will leave the booth after this season. The

64-year-old Dierdorf has called NFL games for three decades, the longest current tenure by a TV analyst. He played offensive line for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1971-83, earning All-Pro honors six times. Dierdorf was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1996, and in 2008, he was recognized with the Hall's Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award. Frank Gifford, John Madden and Len Dawson are the only others to receive both honors.

Dierdorf spent 12 years on ABC's "Monday Night Football" before rejoining CBS in 1999. He currently calls games with Greg Gumbel.

He says travel had become a challenge, adding: "This has been a wonderful ride as I really have lived the dream." □

## Lindsey Vonn partially tears right knee ligament



In this Nov. 7, 2013 file photo, Lindsey Vonn speeds down the training course at the U.S. Ski Team training center at Copper Mountain, Colo.

Associated Press

**HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Sports Writer

Lindsey Vonn partially tore

one of the reconstructed ligaments in her surgically repaired right knee in a training crash that at the very least puts her preparation for the Sochi Olympics on hold.

What is less clear at the moment: When the four-time overall World Cup champion and 2010 Vancouver downhill gold medalist might be able to compete and how her injuries might affect her Olympic hopes. The U.S. Ski Team and Vonn's personal publicist, Lewis Kay, issued nearly identical statements Wednesday detailing her injuries from her fall at Copper Mountain, Colorado, a day earlier: a mild strain to her right knee, the same

one Vonn hurt in a high-speed crash at the world championships in February; "minor facial abrasions"; a bruised shoulder blade.

Vonn has not competed since needing surgery to fix her ACL and MCL after the crash in Austria nine months ago; the ACL was re-injured Tuesday.

Kay said that after Vonn rests for a few days, she "then will pursue aggressive physical therapy and will determine the next time she is able to compete after seeing how she responds to the treatment." Vonn has won 59 World Cup races, leaving her only three shy of Austrian great Annemarie Moser-Proell's record of 62.

The 29-year-old American had been aiming to return to World Cup competition next week in Beaver Creek, Colo. The Sochi Games are in February.

Vonn recently said her super-G is "some of the best super-G I've ever skied, but my downhill still needs a little more time."

She's been taking practice runs in Copper Mountain and posted on her Twitter account Monday: "Catching some air today in Downhill training."

She also recently said that she's reluctantly been wearing a protective knee brace under doctor's orders.

"It's in my best interest to play it safe," Vonn said.

"I compromised and said that as long as I don't have to wear (the brace) for the Olympics, I'll be fine."

Comebacks are really nothing new for Vonn, who has been plagued by injuries throughout her career at major championships — from a thumb she sliced on a champagne bottle at the 2009 world championships in Val d'Isere, France, to a bruised shin that she treated with the unorthodox remedy of Austrian cheese at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and to her wipeout last season.

Vonn also had a horrific crash in downhill training at the 2006 Turin Olympics, only to recover in time to compete. □



# Pacquiao, Rios camps come to blows in Macau

CHRIS LINES

AP Sports Writer

**MACAU (AP)** — Manny Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach was involved in a physical altercation with the entourage of opponent Brandon Rios on Wednesday, four days out from their fight.

Roach approached Rios trainer Robert Garcia in the gym both camps are sharing at The Venetian casino on Macau's Cotai Strip, saying they had gone past their scheduled training time and should leave.

Video of the incident shows a heated argument before Roach was kicked in the upper body by Alex Ariza, a member of the Rios camp who formerly worked alongside Roach in Pacquiao's corner.

Roach demanded on-site security call the police and initially wanted to press assault charges against Ariza, but Bob Arum, chief ex-

ecutive of Top Rank which promotes both fighters, talked him out of it, for fear it could derail Saturday's bout for the vacant WBO welterweight title.

"Who knows what the hell happens in Macau if you press charges, everybody could get arrested, we don't know anything about the legal system," Arum told The Associated Press, adding he was "pretty disgusted" with the incident.

"That kind of publicity is not good for the sport," Arum said. "It was nothing to do with the fighters, it had all to do with a grudge that Ariza has with Freddie, who fired him from Pacquiao's corner."

"Garcia and Rios are good friends of mine and they listened to reason, and I've told them to tone everything down and they will, but Ariza sometimes gets out of control and that's really the problem, and

usually when these types of fights occur, it's usually someone who is tangential to the main guys who starts it."

Pacquiao indirectly addressed the issue during a promotional media appearance later Wednesday.

"Let everything finish in the ring," Pacquiao said. "No trash talk before the fight because it's not a good example to all the people. If anyone has a grudge against someone, forgive them as God forgives. It's not personal, it's our job, entertaining people."

Ariza said he did not believe Pacquiao's comments were directed at him, and the hours that had passed between the morning altercation and the late-night promotional event had not reduced his displeasure toward Roach.

"I take responsibility for what I did 100 percent. I



In this March 23, 2011 file photo, Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, left, trains with coach Freddie Roach in Baguio, northern Philippines.

Associated Press

know what I said and know what I did. I can't take it back, it was the heat of the moment," Ariza told The Associated Press.

"I did what I did because he accosted me, he got close. I know Freddie Roach for six years, and I know he has a tendency to be aggressive.

If he did it again, I'd do it again, too."

Ariza, who during the altercation mocked Roach's slurred speech resulting from Parkinson's disease, said the Hall of Fame trainer was clearly coming toward the end of his ringside career. □

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What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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# Heat win 4th straight, top Hawks 104-88

## The Associated Press

**MIAMI (AP)** — Chris Bosh scored 19 points, Mario Chalmers went on a personal 9-0 run in a 39-second spurt of the pivotal third quarter as the Miami Heat topped the Atlanta Hawks 104-88 on Tuesday for their fourth straight victory. NBA Capsules Bosh shot 8 of 9 for the Heat, who got 17 points from Ray Allen and 13 from LeBron James.

A 15-2 run in the third quarter gave Miami all the room it needed, even on a night when Dwyane Wade sat out to rest. Mike Scott scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Atlanta, which got 12 points apiece from Al Horford and Pero Antic.

Atlanta's Kyle Korver made three 3-pointers, extending his streak to 84 consecutive games with at least one make from beyond the arc, five shy of matching Dana Barros' NBA record.

## ROCKETS 109, CELTICS 85

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Terrence Jones scored a career-high 24 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Houston over Boston for its third straight victory.

Jones was 10 of 12 from the

field as the Rockets shot 57 percent as a team, including 72 percent in the first half in building a 24-point halftime lead.

Patrick Beverley chipped in 16 points, James Harden added 15 points, five rebounds and five assists, and Dwight Howard had 10 points and 11 rebounds as the Rockets raced out to a 17-point, first-quarter lead and were never threatened. Courtney Lee had 17 points, Avery Bradley added 11 and Jared Sullinger had 10 points and nine rebounds off the bench for Boston, which lost its fourth in a row.

## PISTONS 92, KNICKS 86

**AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP)** — Rodney Stuckey scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half as Detroit beat New York for the first time in eight meetings.

Josh Smith added 19 points for the Pistons, who led 71-63 after three quarters and scored the first seven points of the fourth. New York cut the lead to four in the final minute, but the Knicks could never reduce the deficit to one possession. Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 25 points.

Greg Monroe had 16 points and 11 rebounds for Detroit, and Andre Drummond added 13 points and 11 boards.

## WIZARDS 104, TIMBER-

## WOLVES 100

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Bradley Beal scored 25 points, and John Wall added 14 points and equalled his career high with 16 assists

as Washington beat Minnesota to end a four-game losing streak.

Martel Webster's 3-pointer with 42 seconds to play gave the Wizards a 100-98 lead. Beal added two free throws with 12.9 seconds left to make it 102-98.

Webster had 17 points, including five 3-pointers. Kevin Love led the Timberwolves with 25 points and 11 rebounds, and Kevin Martin, who was averaging 24.4 points, was held to 11.

## KINGS 107, SUNS 104

**SACRAMENTO, California**

**(AP)** — DeMarcus Cousins had 27 points and 12 rebounds, helping Sacramento rally past Phoenix.

Rookie Ben McLemore had a season-high 19 points, Isaiah Thomas also scored 19, Greivis Vasquez added 11 and Patrick Patterson 10 for the Kings, who had lost seven of their previous eight. Sacramento scored the game's final 10 points in a run that was aided by three straight Phoenix turnovers in the closing minutes.

Gerald Green scored 23 points and Marcus Morris had 19 for the Suns, who lost their third straight. □



Miami Heat guard Mario Chalmers (15) drives past Atlanta Hawks center Pero Antic (6) of Macedonia, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013 in Miami. The Heat defeated the Hawks 104-88.

Associated Press

## Rodriguez

Continued from Page 18

A person familiar with the session said that after Horowitz made his ruling, the New York Yankees third baseman slammed a table, uttered a profanity at MLB Chief Operating Officer Rob Manfred and left. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because what takes place at the hearing is supposed to be confidential.

"I am disgusted with this abusive process, designed to ensure that the player fails," Rodriguez said in a statement. "I have sat through 10 days of testimony by felons and liars, sitting quietly through every minute, trying to respect the league and the process.

"This morning, after Bud Selig refused to come in and testify about his rationale for the unprecedented



Alex Rodriguez arrives at Major League Baseball headquarters in New York, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013. Rodriguez's grievance hearing to overturn his 211-game suspension resumed Monday with the first of what could be 10 straight days of sessions.

Associated Press

ed and totally baseless punishment he hit me with, the arbitrator selected by MLB and the players' association refused to order

Selig to come in and face me. The absurdity and injustice just became too much. I walked out and will not participate any further

in this farce."

Rodriguez's legal team remains involved in the proceeding. Rodriguez said he had planned to testify later this week but was warned by the union he could face additional discipline if he did.

In a lengthy interview on WFAN, Rodriguez said he consulted Biogenesis of America head Anthony Bosch for "nutrition and weight loss."

Rodriguez repeatedly denied using performance enhancing drugs during the period in question and said Selig "hates my guts," is "trying to destroy me" and "doesn't have the nerve to come and face me face to face."

Horowitz technically is chairman of a three-man arbitration panel that also includes Manfred and Dave Prouty, the general counsel of the players' union.

"For more than 40 years, Major League Baseball and the players' association have had a contractual grievance process to address disputes between the two parties. This negotiated process has served players and clubs well," the commissioner's office said in a statement. "Despite Mr. Rodriguez being upset with one of the arbitration panel's rulings today, Major League Baseball remains committed to this process and to a fair resolution of the pending dispute."

The players' union said it disagreed with the arbitration decision, but added that it would abide by Horowitz's refusal to make Selig testify.

"The MLBPA believes that every player has the right under our arbitration process to directly confront his accuser," the union said in a statement. □



## NHL Capsules

## Rask and Bruins ruin Nash's return to Rangers, 2-1

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Tuukka Rask made 43 saves — including a stop on a first-period penalty shot — as the Boston Bruins spoiled the return of New York forward Rick Nash in a 2-1 victory over the Rangers on Tuesday.

Rask, playing on back-to-back days for the first time this season, denied Chris Kreider's penalty shot and turned away everything else except for Derick Brassard's power-play goal in the second.

Shawn Thornton and Daniel Paille, with his 10th career short-handed goal, provided all the offense Rask needed in the second period as the Bruins (14-6-1) finished a 2-1 road trip after winning at Carolina on Monday.

Henrik Lundqvist stopped 20 shots, but most of the action was at the other end. The Rangers have only two goals in three games, splitting a pair of 1-0 decisions in the previous two. New York has dropped three in a row at home.

**AVALANCHE 5, BLACK-HAWKS 1**

**DENVER (AP)** — Semyon Varlamov stopped 36 shots and Paul Stastny had a goal and an assist in Colorado's victory over Chicago.

Gabriel Landeskog and John Mitchell also scored during the Avalanche's three-goal first period. P.A. Parenteau and Cody McLeod added goals in the second and third for Colorado, which snapped a three-game skid.

Brandon Saad scored for the Blackhawks, who failed to get at least two goals for the first time this season. Antti Raanta made 14 saves in his NHL debut for the Stanley Cup champions. He played the final 46:23 in relief of Corey Crawford, who allowed three goals on seven shots.

**KINGS 5, LIGHTNING 2**  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Anze Kopitar and Matt Frattin

each had a goal and an assist, and Ben Scrivens extended his unlikely winning streak with 19 saves for Los Angeles against Tampa Bay.

Justin Williams also had a goal and an assist for the Kings, who have earned a point in seven consecutive games. Dustin Brown and Dwight King also scored in Los Angeles' impressive return from a four-game road trip.

Scrivens' shutout streak ended at 191 minutes, 19 seconds, on Valtteri Filppula's power-play goal late in the second period, but injured Jonathan Quick's new backup cruised to his fourth consecutive victory in his home debut.

Ben Bishop stopped 26 shots and Victor Hedman had a goal and an assist for Tampa Bay.

The Lightning fell out of first place in the Eastern Conference with their second straight loss.

**PREDATORS 2, RED WINGS 0**  
**DETROIT (AP)** — Rookie goalie Marek Mazanec made 27 saves to earn his first shutout, as Nashville extended Detroit's losing streak to seven games.

Shea Weber and Gabriel Bourque scored for the Predators, who have won two straight after losing four in a row.

The Red Wings' home slide reached eight games (0-6-2). They have gone seven games without a win overall (0-5-2) for the first time since the last seven games of the 2002 regular season, according to STATS. That team went on to hoist the Stanley Cup.

**FLYERS 5, SENATORS 2**  
**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Kimmo Timonen had a goal and two assists, Steve Mason made 32 saves as Philadelphia beat Ottawa.

Claude Giroux, Sean Couturier, Wayne Simmonds and Adam Hall also scored for the Flyers, who are 4-0-1 in their last five games after a 4-10-1 start.

Clarke MacArthur and Kyle Turris both had a power-play goal for the Senators, who have lost two in a row. Timonen and Simmonds scored 23 seconds apart to snap a 2-all tie in the third period. Mason stoned Turris on a penalty shot with 5:06 left to preserve the two-goal cushion.

**CANADIENS 6, WILD 2**  
**MONTREAL (AP)** — Max Pacioretty had a natural hat trick in the second period as Montreal cooled off Minnesota.

Michael Bournival, Daniel Briere and Alex Galchenyuk also scored for the Canadiens, who managed only 18 goals in their previous 11 games.

Nino Niederreiter and Dany Heatley scored for the Wild, who had won four straight. They were 7-0-1 in their past eight games since a 5-1 loss to Chicago on Oct. 28.

Wild starter Josh Harding, one of the NHL's three stars



**Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask (40) blocks a shot in the second period of their NHL hockey game against the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden in New York, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013.**

Associated Press

for his three wins last week, was pulled in the second period after allowing three goals on 19 shots. Harding has given up three goals only twice this season, both times to Montreal. The only other hat trick of Pacioretty's career came on Feb. 9, 2012.

**BLUES 4, SABRES 1**

**BUFFALO, New York (AP)** — Brenden Morrow scored twice as St. Louis extended its mastery of Buffalo.

Vladimir Tarasenko and Magnus Paajarvi also scored and Jaroslav Halak made 23 saves for the Blues, who have won 13 of 15 games against Buffalo since 1999. □

## NHL stops Sabres' bid to send Grigorenko to minors



**Buffalo Sabres center Mikhail Grigorenko (25), of Russia, skates past Anaheim Ducks defenseman Hampus Lindholm (47), of Sweden, in the third period of an NHL hockey game in Anaheim, Calif., Friday, Nov. 8, 2013.**

Associated Press

**BUFFALO, New York (AP)** — The NHL has blocked the Buffalo Sabres' bid to send Russian rookie center Mikhail Grigorenko to the

minors on a conditioning assignment.

The Sabres announced the decision on Wednesday, a day after Grigorenko was

among three rookies assigned to Rochester in the American Hockey League. Under NHL rules, teams are allowed to assign players on conditioning stints lasting no more than 14 days. The ruling limits Buffalo's options. The Sabres must choose between keeping the 19-year-old in Buffalo or returning Grigorenko to a junior team in Quebec.

"We determined that the assignment would not have been consistent with our obligations under the league's agreement with the (Central Hockey League)," NHL spokesman Frank Brown said.

Grigorenko had difficulty earning playing time in Buffalo. Before the demotion, he was sidelined for two straight games and five of seven. □



# Holiday Feast

By Dr. Carlos Viana

## Dr. Viana's HOLIDAY MENU

(For all blood types, gluten & dairy free)



### Slow Roasted Turkey

With giblet gravy

Trimmed with raisins & plums



### Brown, Wild Rice and Peruvian Quinoa Blend



### Romaine & Field Green Salad



### Fresh Cranberry Sauce



### Amy's Rice Milk & Molasses Quesillo

**Beverage: Light-Red Wine, Still or Sparkling Grape Juice, Mineral Water**



to more traditional foods that are classed as being detrimental according to your blood type. I carve a mean plate of turkey in front of our guests. You might not know this but the nutrition facts of turkey per serving is: 232 calories, 11 grams of fat, but only 3 grams saturated fat, 108 mg cholesterol, 77 mg sodium, 0 g carbohydrate, 0 g fiber, 32 grams protein, and 15% iron. There is nothing wrong nutritionally here. Additionally, hiding in the 32 grams of protein is tryptophan an essential amino acid. Tryptophan is needed for the production of Niacin (vitamin B 3) and is the precursor of our brain chemical serotonin. Serotonin is the calming, sedating substance essential for normal mood and sleep patterns. Now you know why you are so inclined to take a nap after a turkey dinner.

The traditional potato smothered in cheese is out. Both the potato and cheese will slow down the metabolism of most of us. Instead, for carbohydrates we use sweet potatoes, pumpkin, and brown rice. This year, after baking the potatoes in the grill next to the turkey, we are going to mash the sweet potatoes with a touch of ginger. Ginger contains components that positively influence known disease susceptibility, a good thing. I think the ginger balances nicely the taste of the sweet potatoes. Slow, baking brings out the sweetness in the potatoes, but the glycemic load is very low! This means it won't spike your insulin. The nutrition facts per serving of sweet potatoes includes: 240 calories, 6 g total fat, 4 g saturated fat, 15 mg cholesterol, 73 mg sodium, 46 g carbohydrate, 5 g fiber, 2 g protein, 294% vitamin A, 54% vitamin C. Did you see the amount of vitamin A? Wow, I am surprised that sweet potatoes do not need to be registered as an eye medicine. We could not think about any holiday dinner without serving pumpkin. Here we go again helping our eyes. The nutrition facts for pumpkin per serving is: 286 calories, 13 grams total fat, 4 g saturated fat, 86 mg cholesterol, 120 mg sodium, 38 g carbohydrate, 2 grams of fiber, 7 grams protein, 130% vitamin A, 9% vitamin C, 7% calcium, 13% iron. Did you notice the blood building quali-

ties of pumpkin? Only people with blood group B cannot enjoy this delicious and nutritious vegetable. In Aruba, pumpkin soup is a specialty. If I am lucky Amy might bake me a pumpkin pie, yum! Or maybe we will make pumpkin with onions. As in every meal at our house brown rice is the staple carbohydrate. For this meaningful occasion we will add some zest (and even more nutrition) to our brown rice with wild rice and quinoa. Brown rice can be enjoyed by all blood groups. White "polished" rice is nutritionally lifeless since the bran, which contains all of the nutrition, has been stolen to sell to pharmaceutical companies to make B complex vitamins. This should give us a strong indication the benefit derived from eating brown rice. The wild rice, especially if harvested from wild ponds, contains trace minerals missing in our other grains. Super-grain, Peruvian quinoa has one of the highest amounts of absorbable calcium available. Support for our bones that cooks in just 15 minutes! And what would turkey dinner be without cranberry sauce? This year, "can the can" full of dangerously unhealthy, high fructose corn syrup. Homemade cranberry sauce takes only 15 minutes on the stove, make with low processed cane sugar or natural grape sugar. Try arrowroot instead of cornstarch for thickener in the smooth variety or make chunky. Cranberries are a traditional remedy for bladder infection. Cranberries contain a naturally occurring simple sugar, closely related to glucose called D- mannose. D-Mannose is metabolized by our bodies and excreted into the urine. This simple sugar helps maintain a healthy urinary tract by its interaction with the bacterium found in over 90% of all bladder infections, Escherichia coli ("E. coli"). This strain of E.coli is found as part of the "normal microflora" in every intestinal tract. But even normal E.coli does not belong in the bladder and urinary tract. In these areas they multiply and become an infection. D-Mannose "sticks" to E.coli. When we take a large quantity of D-Mannose by eating cranberries, almost all of it spills into the urine through our kidneys, literally "coating" any E.coli present so they can no lon-

ger "stick" to the inside walls of the bladder and urinary tract. The E.coli is literally rinsed away with normal urination! Imagine, all from eating cranberries. Include your favorite fresh green vegetables prepared with olive oil and fresh herbs, and you've got yourself a healthy, holiday feast. Choosing your Holiday Menu? Get the Point! Selecting healthy foods from your "beneficial" list (available at our Clinic) is a delicious and healthy alternative to some traditional holiday foods. As for our "Breaking of bread" dinner being a "common meal" or a "religious memorial", I do not make a distinction. Come to clinic so we can teach you how to make eating healthy an everyday event. Meanwhile, with my glass of red wine, loaded with antioxidants, I will toast and give thanks for the presence of healthy family members and friends and remember those of you who cannot make it this year. GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH: Gift Certificates and Organic Products available at Viana Center.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: [www.vianaheal.com](http://www.vianaheal.com)

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Traditionally, a festive feast or dinner is a focal element of the holiday season where we sit down with family and friends for the "breaking of the bread". The expression "breaking of bread", some believe, must be qualified. "Breaking of bread" signified the dividing of the bread cakes or loaves, which were used by Orientals. Sometimes "breaking of bread" is used concerning partaking of a common meal (Mk. 6: 41; Acts 27: 35) and "Breaking of bread: is also used in connection with the religious memorial called the Lord's Supper. We are talking about Christmas dinner and before we can sit down to enjoy our meal, we need to plan our menu. For several years already we have said goodbye to the traditional holiday smoked ham. Ham, as all pork products is detrimental to people in all blood groups. Pork aggravates blood to become sticky; slows down proper digestion and obstructs absorption of nutrition. Instead we have a turkey that I slowly roast on the barbeque. No deep-frying here! Turkey has become my family dinner's centerpiece because it is a healthy alternative

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# Carriers reject kill switch for stolen smartphones

TERRY COLLINS

Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Samsung Electronics, the world's largest mobile phone manufacturer, has proposed installing a built-in anti-theft measure known as a "kill switch" that would render stolen or lost phones inoperable, but the biggest U.S. carriers have rejected the idea, according to San Francisco's top prosecutor.

District Attorney George Gascon said Monday that AT&T Inc., Verizon Wireless, United States Cellular Corp., Sprint Corp. and T-Mobile US Inc. rebuffed Samsung's proposal to preload its phones with Absolute LoJack anti-theft software as a standard feature.

The wireless industry says a kill switch isn't the answer because it could allow a hacker to disable someone's phone.

Gascon, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and other law enforcement officials have been demanding that manufacturers create kill switches to combat surging smartphone theft across the country.

Almost 1 in 3 U.S. robberies involve phone theft, according to the Federal Communications Commission. Lost and stolen mobile devices — mostly smartphones — cost consumers more than \$30 billion last year, according to a study cited by Schneiderman in June.

Samsung officials told the San Francisco district attorney's office in July that carriers were resisting kill switches, and prosecutors have recently reviewed emails between a senior vice president at Samsung and a software developer about the issue. One email in August said Samsung had pre-installed kill switch software in some smartphones ready for shipment, but carriers ordered their removal as a standard feature.

"These emails suggest that the carriers are rejecting a technological solution so they can continue to shake down their customers for billions of dollars in (theft) insurance premiums," Gascon said. "I'm incensed. ... This is a solution that has the potential to end the victimization of their customers."

Samsung said it is cooperating with Gascon, Schneiderman and the carriers on an anti-theft solution but declined to comment specifically about the emails.

"We are working with the leaders of the Secure Our Smartphones (SOS) Initiative to incorporate the perspective of law enforcement agencies," said Samsung spokeswoman Jessica Redman. "We will

continue to work with them and our wireless carrier partners toward our common goal of stopping smartphone theft."

Although the popular Samsung Galaxy smartphones are shipped across the country without LoJack as a standard feature, users can pay a subscription fee for the service.

CTIA-The Wireless Association, a trade group for wireless providers, said it has been working with the

phones were sold in the U.S., according to International Data Corp., a Massachusetts-based researcher. About 725 million smartphones were sold worldwide, accounting for \$281 billion in sales, IDC said.

Samsung Electronics Co., with its popular Galaxy S4 smartphone, shipped 81 million phones — more than the next four manufacturers combined — during the most recent sales quarter for a market

and password to reactivate a phone, even after all the data on the device is erased.

In July, prosecutors brought federal and state security experts to San Francisco to test Apple's iPhone 5 with its activation lock and Samsung's Galaxy S4 with LoJack.

Treating the phones as if they were stolen, experts tried to circumvent their anti-theft features to evaluate their effectiveness, and that work is continuing.



In this June 5, 2013, file photo, people use cellphones in downtown San Francisco.

Associated Press

FCC, law enforcement agencies and elected officials on a national stolen phone database scheduled to launch Nov. 30.

The CTIA says a permanent kill switch has serious risks, including potential vulnerability to hackers who could disable mobile devices and lock out not only individuals' phones but also phones used by entities such as the Department of Defense, Homeland Security and law enforcement agencies.

"The problem is how do you trigger a kill switch in a secure manner and not be compromised by a third party and be subjected to hacking," said James Moran, a security adviser with the GSMA, a United Kingdom wireless trade group that has overseen a global stolen mobile phone database and is helping to create the U.S. version.

Last year, about 121 million smart-

share of 31 percent, IDC reported in October. Apple Inc. shipped 34 million iPhones for a market share of 13 percent.

In June, Gascon and Schneiderman held a "Smartphone Summit" in New York City to call on representatives from smartphone makers Apple, Samsung, Google Inc. and Microsoft Corp. to adopt kill switches that would be free to consumers.

That week, Apple said such a feature, an "activation lock," would be part of its iOS 7 software that was eventually released this fall. The new activation lock feature is designed to prevent thieves from turning off the Find My iPhone application, which allows owners to track their phone on a map, remotely lock the device and delete its data.

The activation lock requires someone to know the user's Apple ID

One Silicon Valley technology security expert said he thinks Apple's activation lock is the first kill switch that meets law enforcement's desire to protect iPhone users and other smartphone manufacturers should follow suit.

"Thieves cannot do anything with the device unless they have the user's ID, which they don't," said Ojas Rege, vice president of strategy at Mobile Iron, a technology software security company in Mountain View, California.

"The activation lock addresses this issue without the carriers having to do anything," Rege said, adding that he does not believe resistance to implementing kill switch technology is fueled by profits.

"That is not the number one priority for manufacturers.

They're driven by creating the next great feature for their smartphones," he said. □



# Worries of a Fed pullback sends US stocks lower

**KEN SWEET**

**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The latest news from the Federal Reserve spooked investors Wednesday.

Stock and bond prices fell after minutes from the Fed's latest meet-

"coming months."

The Fed has been buying \$85 billion every month in Treasury and mortgage-backed bonds, which keeps long-term interest rates artificially low and makes stocks seem inexpensive in comparison to

long term," said Kristina Hooper, head of U.S. investment strategies for Allianz Global Investors.

The Fed's economic stimulus has been a key driver of the stock market's 25 percent surge this year, along with rising corporate prof-

or 0.4 percent, to 15,900.82. It was up 20 points shortly before the minutes were released at 2 p.m. (1900 GMT).

The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 6.50 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,781.37. The Nasdaq lost 10.28 points, or 0.3 percent, to 3,921.27.

The market began the day higher after an encouraging report on retail sales and better news from long-struggling J.C. Penney.

Investors already know the Fed will reduce its economic stimulus eventually, yet they remain highly sensitive to concrete signals that a pullback is imminent and worry that the Fed might withdraw its support before the economy is ready.

Bond prices also declined. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose sharply, to 2.80 percent from 2.71 percent just before the minutes were released. That's the highest since Sept. 17. Bond yields rise when demand for them falls.

The Fed's next policy meeting is scheduled for Dec. 17-18. Investors are split on

whether the bank will vote to pull back its bond purchases, or "taper" them, as it is sometimes called on Wall Street. The Fed surprised investors at its Sept. 17-18 meeting by keeping the bond purchases in place, despite widespread predictions that it would start to wind the program down.

With Wednesday's decline, the S&P 500 is down roughly 1 percent for the week. The index hasn't had a weekly loss since the week ending Oct. 4.

Hooper and other market watchers said they would not be surprised if the market continued to fall. "It would not be unreasonable for investors to step back here," said Ron Florence, deputy chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank.

J.C. Penney led the S&P 500 index higher with an 8 percent gain. Despite reporting a loss in the third quarter, there were hopeful signs for the long-struggling store chain heading into the holiday shopping season. The company said its sales increased in October for the first time since December 2011. The stock rose 73 cents to \$9.44. It's still down 52 percent this year.

Lowe's, the home improvement store chain, fell \$3.11, or 6 percent, to \$47.33. Lowe's earned 47 cents per share in the latest quarter, a penny short of what analysts were looking for. Lowe's was outshone by competitor Home Depot, which reported a 26 percent surge in net income the day before.

The holiday shopping season is a make-or-break time for U.S. retailers, and more broadly the U.S. economy. Sales during November and December can account for up to 40 percent of the annual revenue for store operators.

So far, there's reason to be hopeful.

The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, expects holiday sales to increase 3.9 percent to \$602.1 billion this year. □



**Traders work in a booth on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The latest news from the Federal Reserve spooked investors Wednesday, bringing markets off from their highs.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ing showed that the U.S. economy was improving steadily enough to warrant a reduction in stimulus in

bonds.

"Investors need to be prepared to see the Fed wind down its program in the

its and a recovering U.S. economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 66.21 points,

## J.C. Penney's loss is bigger than expected

**MICHAEL J. de la MERCED**  
© 2013 New York Times

J.C. Penney reported a bigger-than-expected loss and another drop in sales Wednesday, though the embattled retailer pointed to tentative signs that its latest turnaround effort may be bearing fruit.

The company reported an adjusted net loss of \$457 million for the three months ended Nov. 2, as net sales fell 5 percent from the same time a year ago.

That amounted to a loss of \$1.81 a share after excluding certain one-time charges and gains. Analysts on average had expected the company to lose \$1.77 a share, according to estimates compiled by Standard & Poor's Capital IQ.

Using generally accepted accounting principles, the retailer lost \$489 million, or \$1.94 a share.

But Penney pointed to hopeful signs that its latest self-help campaign - its

third in two years - is beginning to show results. While sales in stores that have been open at least one year fell 4.8 percent for the quarter overall, they improved by just under 1 percent in October.

And online sales rose 24.5 percent, to \$266 million.

"We are proud of the company's October sales performance, encouraged by the early weeks of November, and believe we are making strides toward a path to long-term profitable growth," Myron E. Ullman III, the company's chief executive, said in a statement. Shares in the retailer were up 5.6 percent in premarket trading, at \$9.20. Ullman, who returned to the chief executive position earlier this year, has been working to undo one of the highest-profile failures in recent corporate turnaround history. During the 17-month tenure of Ron Johnson, whom the company ousted

this spring, the retailer's stock plummeted more than 50 percent.

His ambitious plans to eliminate discount sales drove customers away, prompting Johnson to issue an apology in February after Penney reported a \$552 million quarterly loss.

Penney became further embroiled in controversy this summer after Johnson's former backer, the hedge fund manager William A. Ackman, publicly feuded with his fellow board members, going as far as to publicly leak confidential director deliberations. Ackman resigned in mid-August and two weeks later sold his 18 percent stake in the company. And last month, Penney agreed to abandon efforts to sell a broad range of home products designed by Martha Stewart, surrendering in a long-running war with Macy's. The move was another unwinding of a legacy left by

Johnson.

Not all of Ullman's moves have won investor approval. Shares in Penney plunged after the company sold 84 million new shares in late September to raise money for its revival campaign.

And even the small rise in same-store sales during October came at a cost. Ullman has brought back discount sales, clearing out merchandise through steep price reductions that cut gross margins to 29.5 percent from 32.5 percent in the year-ago period.

The retailer's future has become such an open question that a coterie of hedge funds have poured into its stock, with some firms like Jana Partners believing that the company will regain its footing. But others that had been optimistic, like Glenview Capital Management and Perry Capital, sold off big portions of their holdings during the quarter. □



## Philip Morris says ready for e-cigarettes

**M. FELBERBAUM**  
**AP Tobacco Writer**  
**RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)**

— Philip Morris International Inc. said Wednesday it plans to enter the growing electronic cigarette business late next year and accelerate the launch of its reduced-risk products.

The seller of Marlboro and other cigarette brands overseas is joining many tobacco companies venturing into smokeless tobacco and other nicotine products to diversify beyond the declining traditional cigarette business as tax increases, health concerns, smoking bans and stigma cut into demand.

Electronic cigarettes are battery-powered devices that heat a liquid nicotine solution, creating vapor that users inhale. The category has grown from thousands of users in 2006 to several million worldwide.

Philip Morris International's first foray into the electronic cigarette business will be similar to current products on the market but will offer an "an improved taste," CEO Andre Calantzopoulos said Wednesday at the Morgan Stanley Global Consumer Conference in New York.

Company executives in July had dismissed electronic cigarettes, saying they aren't a product that's very close to a traditional cigarette and said it was "much more the phenomena of the price than anything else."

The company is developing products that heat tobacco in a cigarette with a controlled heating mechanism or an aerosol nicotine-delivery system. It plans to pilot test its next-generation products late next year and launch a product that heats tobacco instead of burning it in 2015, ahead of its previously expected launch between 2016 and 2017.

Philip Morris International, based in New York and Switzerland, is the world's second-biggest cigarette seller behind state-controlled China National Tobacco Corp. □

## US existing home sales fall 3.2 pct. in October

**PAUL WISEMAN**  
**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Fewer Americans bought existing homes in October, as higher mortgage rates, the 16-day partial government shutdown and a limited supply of houses on the market reduced sales.

The National Association of Realtors reported that home re-sales fell 3.2 percent last month from September to a seasonally adjusted annual pace of 5.12 million. That's down from a 5.29 million pace in September and the slowest since June. A healthy pace is around 5.5 million.

Sales of single family homes declined 4.1 percent, while condominium sales rose 3.3 percent.

The median sales price of an existing home was \$199,500 in October, up 12.8 percent from a year earlier and the 11th straight month of double-digit annual increases.

The 16-day partial government shutdown pinched home sales last month by creating uncertainty about the economy and slowing loan approvals: 13 percent of real-estate agents reported that transactions had been delayed.

"The uncertainty created by the government shutdown and debt ceiling battle in October left

Americans more worried about the economy than they have been all year," Ellen Haberle, economist at online real estate-broker Redfin, said. "It is no surprise that many buyers put their home-buying plans on hold that month."

Mortgage rates have also risen from historic lows, making homes less affordable. The average rate on a 30-year, fixed rate mort-

gages program by the end of this year. But the Fed surprised markets in September when it held off scaling back the program. And now many analysts predict it will continue to purchase \$85 billion a month until early next year. The bond purchases have kept long-term interest rates low. Mortgage rates are still low by historical standards.

homes are available. Across the country, the inventory of available homes dropped 2.1 percent last month to 1.88 million, the fewest since March.

The median existing home for sale stayed on the market just 54 days, down from 71 days in October 2012. That suggests buyers are snapping up homes when they do come on the market.



In this November 2013, photo, a home is advertised for sale in Matthews, N.C. The National Association of Realtors reported on sales of previously occupied homes in October on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013. (AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

gage rose last week to 4.35 percent, a full percentage point above the 3.35 percent reached in early May. Interest rates began to rise in late May on speculation that the Federal Reserve would slow its bond pur-

Another reason sales have slowed is that there's a shortage of homes on the market,

Home sales in the West dropped 7.2 percent last month from September, largely because fewer

The housing market is still healing after the real-estate collapse in 2006 and 2007. Home sales tumbled to an annual pace of 3.45 million in July 2010 from a peak of 7.25 million in September 2005. □

## Fed could slow bond buys in coming months

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
**AP Economic Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Members of the Federal Reserve agreed last month that they would likely start reducing their bond purchases in coming months if the U.S. job market improved further. They also weighed the possibility of slowing the purchases even without clear evidence of a strengthening job market.

The Fed's bond purchases have been intended to keep long-term borrowing rates low to spur spending and growth.

The minutes, or written records, of the Oct. 29-30 meeting, released Wednesday, also show that members wrestled with how to assure inves-

tors that even after they cut back on the \$85 billion a month in bond buys, the Fed still intends to keep its keep short-term rate near record lows.

At the meeting, members made no changes in interest rate policy. But many wanted to better communicate to the public its plans for both slowing its bond purchases and keeping borrowing rates low to encourage spending. The discussion suggests some members were worried that investors could mistakenly assume a slowdown in bond purchases, which have kept long-term rates low, will be followed by an increase in short-term interest rates.

Stocks fell Wednesday after the minutes indicated

the Fed might be closer to scaling back its stimulus. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 66 points.

According to the minutes, Fed members expect incoming data will show improvement in the job market and would "thus warrant trimming the pace of purchases in coming months." Interest rates would likely rise once the Fed slows its bond purchases. Higher rates stand to hurt both bond and stock prices.

The minutes did not specify when that first reduction in bond purchases might occur.

Some participants suggested that at some stage it might be appropriate to begin trimming the bond

purchases "before an unambiguous further improvement" in the outlook for the job market. But other Fed officials objected that such a suggestion was premature and wanted more time to assess the impact of the bond purchases.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said this discussion revealed "the battle lines are clearly drawn with some at the Fed now itching to scale back (bond purchases) unless the incoming data are awful."

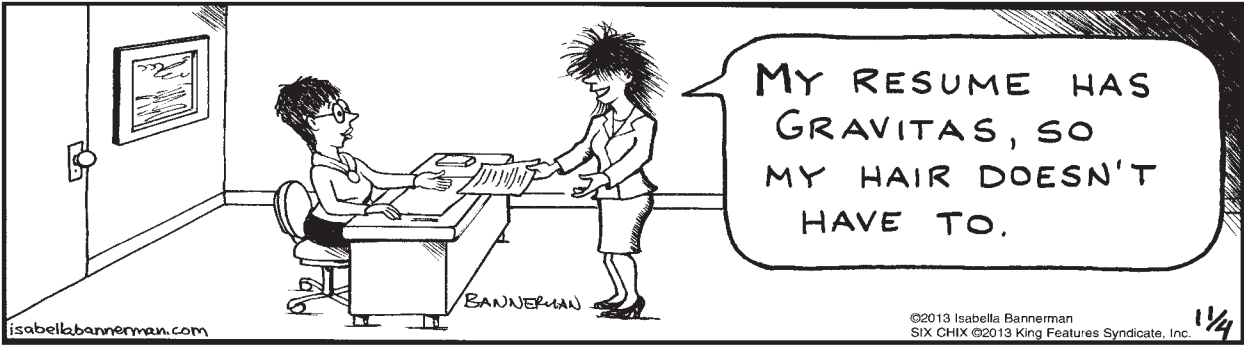
Many Fed officials have stated their desire to keep short-term rates low even after unemployment falls below 6.5 percent, as long as inflation remains low. □



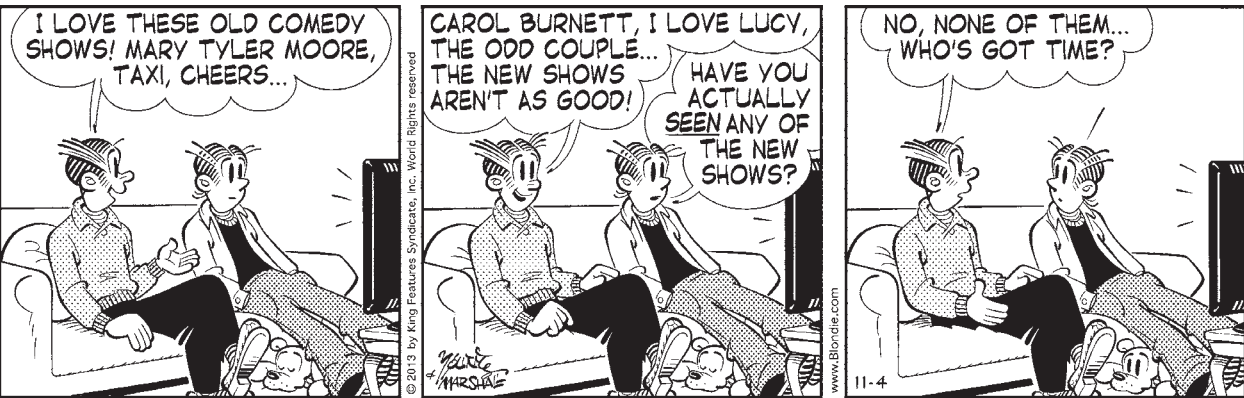
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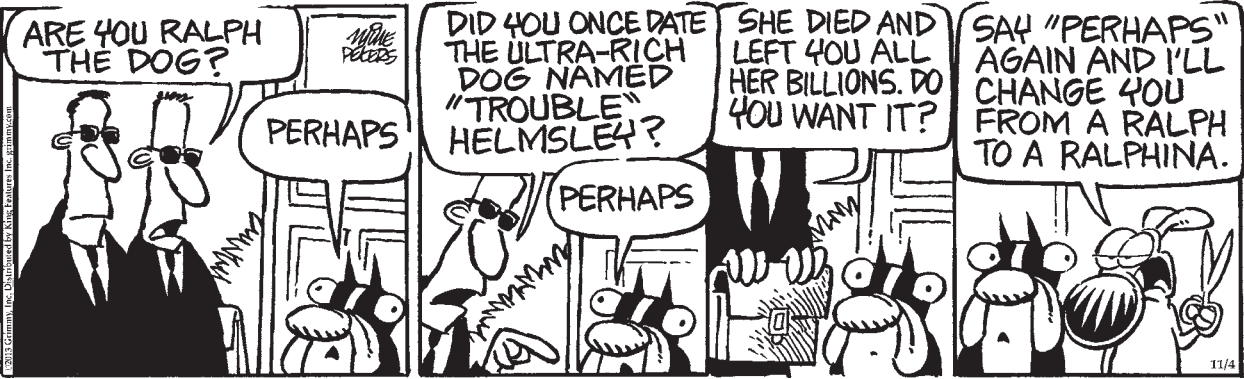
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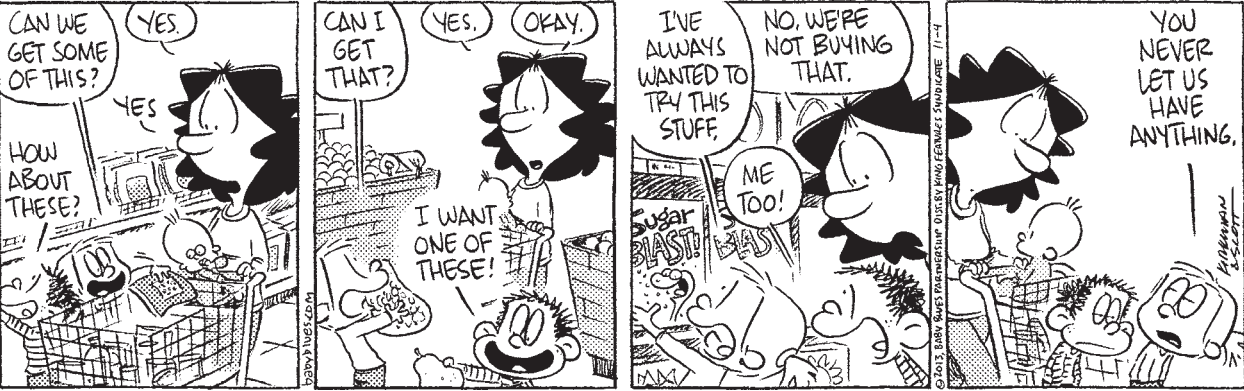
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		9			2		
	3		9	8		5	
5		1		6		8	9
	7		2	9		8	
		4		3	9		
	8		6	4		3	
4		7		8		5	2
	1		5	7		4	
		3			7		

Difficulty Level ★ 11/04

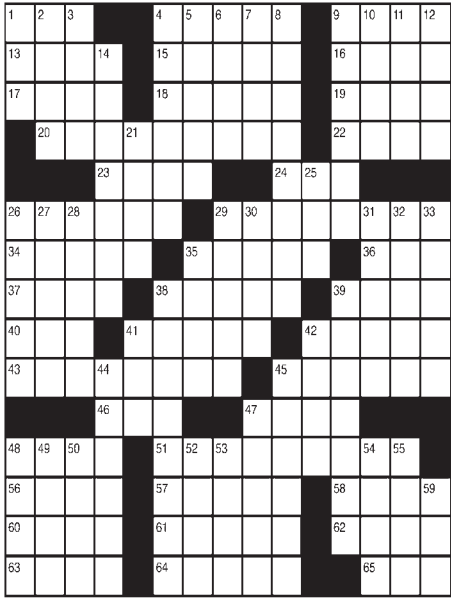
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

9	6	7	1	4	3	5	2	8
1	5	2	9	8	6	7	4	3
8	4	3	2	7	5	6	9	1
3	8	6	4	5	1	9	7	2
2	7	4	8	6	9	1	3	5
5	9	1	7	3	2	4	8	6
6	2	5	3	9	7	8	1	4
4	3	9	5	1	8	2	6	7
7	1	8	6	2	4	3	5	9

ACROSS

- 1 Used a shovel  
4 oneself; worked steadily  
9 Only  
13 Thingamajig  
15 Sun-dried clay used for bricks  
16 Like fine wine  
17 Lion's neck hair  
18 Injects with a local anesthetic  
19 Boring event  
20 Cruel  
22 Stand up against  
23 Divide into categories  
24 Female sheep  
26 Make use of  
29 Nudity  
34 Actress Bo  
35 One's strong point  
36 Siesta  
37 Speaker's platform  
38 Certain cards that are neither high nor low  
39 Jobless  
40 Hotel  
41 over; studied intently  
42 Range  
43 Highly respected  
45 Gushed forth  
46 Talk on and on  
47 Juicy fruit  
48 News, for short  
51 Counterclaims; arguments  
56 African nation  
57 Rejoice  
58 Warty amphibian  
60 Bakery purchases  
61 Dishwasher cycle  
62 Green with; covetous  
63 Close noisily  
64 Furry swimmer  
65 Word of mild surprise



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/4/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- 1 Poorly lit  
2 Ogden's state  
3 Kelly or Wilder  
4 Larder  
5 Grown-up  
6 Arrive  
7 Subsidies  
8 Baked Alaska and carrot cake  
9 Depress  
10 Meanie  
11 Plant part  
12 Uptight  
14 German; rubella  
21 Chess piece  
25 Tiny  
26 Actor Cibrán  
27 Symbolizes  
28 Out of; like a book no longer available  
29 Fought in a ring  
30 "O my Love's like red rose..." (Burns)  
31 with; bestow upon  
32 Soothing balm  
33 Hastiness  
35 Blaze  
38 Hombre's hat  
39 Repeat  
41 Tiny vegetable  
42 Quarrel  
44 Pompousness  
45 Large bird dog  
47 Sign of life  
48 Little rascals  
49 Tack  
50 Biting insect  
52 Way out  
53 Tap a baseball  
54 Yearn  
55 Keep for later  
59 Recolor



# Reagan's role in NSA's hack of Google and Yahoo

MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— Back when Yahoo was something hollered at a rodeo and no one could conceive of Googling anything, President Ronald Reagan signed an executive order that extended the power of U.S. intelligence agencies overseas, allowing broader surveillance of non-U.S. suspects. At the time, no one imagined he was granting authority to spy on what became known as Silicon Valley.

But recent reports that the National Security Agency secretly broke into communications on Yahoo and Google overseas have technology companies, privacy advocates and even national security proponents calling for a re-examination of Reagan's order and other intelligence laws.

Experts suggest a legislative update is long overdue to clear up what Electronic Frontier Foundation legal director Cindy Cohn calls "lots of big gray areas."

With the cooperation of foreign allies, the NSA is potentially gaining access to every email sent or received abroad, or between people abroad, from Google and Yahoo's email services, as well as anything in Google Docs, Maps or Voice, according to a series of articles in the Washington Post. It's impossible to know how many of Google and Yahoo's collective 1.8 billion accounts are affected, but in a single 30-day period last year, field collectors processed and warehoused more than 180 million new records — ranging from "metadata," which would indicate who sent or received emails and when, to content such as text, audio and video, the Post reported.

The Post reported that the NSA and its British counterpart, the U.K. Government Communications Headquarters, have intercepted and tapped into data funneled by Google and Yahoo through fiber optic



In this March 30, 1981 file photo, President Ronald Reagan acknowledges applause before speaking to the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO at a Washington hotel.

Associated Press

cables, routing information in an NSA operation called Muscular. The information was provided to the newspaper by former NSA contract employee Edward Snowden, who is being sought by the U.S. for leaking classified information. "Had the NSA done the same warrantless tapping at Google's Mountain View, California, headquarters, there's no doubt they would be violating the law," said Cohn, whose San Francisco-based non-profit fights for digital freedoms. "They're doing this abroad because they want that fig leaf of legality."

The NSA, in an online statement, says its collection operations comply with federal laws and orders. Reagan's 1981 Executive Order 12333 for the first time in a public, written record allowed foreign covert action to be conducted from inside the U.S. The measure, amended several times after 9/11, outlines key rules for more than a dozen intelligence agencies. It spells out when spies are allowed to peek into mail, homes and electronics, identifies who has to approve of specific searches, and details how to carry out clandestine collection of foreign intelligence.

"What NSA does is collect the communications

of targets of foreign intelligence value, irrespective of the provider that carries them," the agency said, likening the data channels at private firms to super highways.

In other words, the NSA is not targeting information about Google and Yahoo as such, but is conducting surveillance on foreigners using the services these companies provide, said University of Indiana law professor David Fidler. But Fidler says this explanation ignores the fact that the NSA is directly targeting the facilities of U.S. companies, "even if the information ostensibly sought concerned foreign persons."

Even Google's chairman Eric Schmidt, outraged by the invasion, says he's not sure it is illegal, telling CNN the operation is "perhaps a violation of law but certainly a violation of mission."

It is unclear exactly how the intrusions were carried out, but Daniel Castro, senior analyst at the Washington nonprofit Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, suspects the surveillance required a computer savvy person either working for the NSA, another government, or a contractor, to physically get inside a network provider's facilities to tap into the fiber optic network and route a copy of the

online traffic into their own network. The set up could be similar to a secret NSA room built into an AT&T building in San Francisco in 2002 and made public by a retired AT&T staffer in 2007.

The Post reported that the NSA isn't breaking into accounts as they sit, stored in data centers, but is able to gather the emails and other communications as they move between them. □

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# Global study: Kids less fit than parents were

**MARILYNN MARCHIONE**

**AP Chief Medical Writer**

**DALLAS (AP)** — Today's kids can't keep up with their parents. An analysis of studies on millions of children around the world finds they don't run as fast or as far as their parents did when they were young.

On average, it takes children 90 seconds longer to run a mile (1.6 kilometer) than their counterparts did 30 years ago. Heart-related fitness has declined 5 percent per decade since 1975 for children ages 9 to 17.

The American Heart Association, whose conference featured the research on Tuesday, says it's the first to show that children's fitness has declined worldwide over the last three decades.

"It makes sense. We have kids that are less active than before," said Dr. Stephen Daniels, a University of Colorado pediatrician and spokesman for the heart association.

World Health Organization numbers suggest that 80 percent of young people globally may not be getting enough exercise.

Health experts recommend that children 6 and older get 60 minutes of moderately vigorous activity accumulated over a day. Only one-third of American kids do now.

"Many schools, for economic reasons, don't have any physical education at all," Daniels said.

Sam Kass, a White House chef and head of first lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move program, told the conference on Monday, "We are currently facing the most sedentary generation of children in our history."

The new study was led by



In this May 13, 2007 file photo, boys participate in 100 meter race during two-day World Athletics Day meet in Bangalore, India.

**Associated Press**

Grant Tomkinson, an exercise physiologist at the University of South Australia. Researchers analyzed 50 studies on running fitness — a key measure of cardiovascular health and endurance — involving 25 million children ages 9 to 17 in 28 countries from 1964 to 2010.

The studies measured how far children could run in 5 to 15 minutes and how quickly they ran a certain distance, ranging from half a mile to 2 miles (3.2 kilometers). Today's kids are

about 15 percent less fit than their parents were, researchers concluded.

"The changes are very similar for boys and girls and also for various ages," but differed by geographic region, Tomkinson said.

The decline in fitness seems to be leveling off in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and perhaps in the last few years in North America.

However, it continues to fall in China, and Japan never had much falloff — fitness has remained fairly consistent there. About 20 million of the 25 million children in the studies were from Asia. In China, annual fitness test data show the country's students are getting slower and fatter over the past couple of decades.

Experts and educators blame an obsession with academic testing scores for China's competitive

college admissions as well as a proliferation of indoor entertainment options like gaming and web surfing for the decline.

China's Education Ministry data show that in 2010 male college students ran 1,000 meters 14 to 15 seconds slower on average than male students who ran a decade earlier. Female students slowed by about 12 seconds in running 800 meters.

Motoaki Nito of the Sports and Youth Bureau at Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology said there had been a decline in physical fitness among youth since the 1980s.

To turn that around, the government has urged municipalities and schools to promote youth fitness. Nito said that this had resulted in a gradual increase of physical strength, which

while not equal to levels seen in the 1980s, had reversed the trend.

Tomkinson and Daniels said obesity likely plays a role, since it makes it harder to run or do any aerobic exercise.

Too much time watching television and playing video games and unsafe neighborhoods with not enough options for outdoor play also may play a role, they said.

Other research discussed global declines in activity. Fitness is "pretty poor in adults and even worse in young people," especially in the United States and eastern Europe, said Dr. Ulf Ekelund of the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in Oslo, Norway.

World Health Organization numbers suggest that 80 percent of young people globally may not be getting enough exercise. □

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# Lawrence is Hollywood's modern everywoman

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — It's not always easy being an Oscar-winner.

When Jennifer Lawrence returned to the set of "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" after winning the best-actress Academy Award for last year's "Silver Linings Playbook," she was treated to a round of applause.

Then the teasing began.

"I kind of wish just the 'Hunger Games' group didn't know about (the award) because anytime I mess up my lines, Woody (Harrelson) is like, 'Ya better give that Oscar back!'" said Lawrence.

"But when I got back, I told everybody that things were going to be very, very different," the actress said, puffing out her chest before bursting into a bout of laughter. "The applause was sweet, but really it was like, 'Let's move on.'"

And move on she did, back in theaters this weekend as heroine Katniss Everdeen in the "Hunger Games: Catching Fire" sequel. Although the role isn't traditional Oscar material, playing a bow

and arrow-bearing fighter in the screen adaptation of Suzanne Collins' best-selling trilogy also isn't hurting Lawrence's established Oscar track.

"I don't really look for something (like Oscar potential) when I sit down to read a script," Lawrence said in a recent interview at a "Catching Fire" media event. "There is not really a lot of thought. It's a bizarre instinctual and emotional thing that just hits me."

Able to tackle dramatic and comedy roles with ease — both in studio blockbusters and smaller independent films — Lawrence says her continued universal success wasn't by design.

"It just sort of happened and everybody complimented me on it," said the actress. "I started out in indies and I always imagined myself being in smaller movies for the rest of my career. Then 'Hunger Games' came along and I was in a big pickle. I would have done it in a heartbeat if it were an indie, but it was giant! I had to take a few days to think about it."

Lawrence accepted the role largely because of her



This Friday, Nov. 15, 2013 shows US actress Jennifer Lawrence during the France premiere of the movie, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," at Rex Cinema in Paris, France.

Associated Press

fondness for the strong-spirited lead character. "The stakes are high for her," said the actress. "It's exciting to have a female hero like this. It says a lot about our society."

Though she was already on Hollywood's radar after starring in the acclaimed

2010 drama "Winter's Bone," which gained her an Oscar nomination, Lawrence said "Hunger Games" raised the bar. "It took everything to a different place that I could have never imagined. And the (Oscar) did wonderful things for my career. I'm just rolling with it."

Deemed Hollywood's "normal" girl, Lawrence's accessible personality contributes to her demand. She endearingly stumbled while accepting her Oscar in February. She refuses to starve to fit the entertainment industry's ideals of beauty. And at the Nov. 11 premiere of "Catching Fire" in London, Lawrence averted from the red carpet to embrace a teary-eyed fan in a wheelchair. "It's refreshing," said Lawrence's "Hunger Games" co-star Liam Hemsworth of the actress' disposition. "She's not trying to be anything she's not and she's got one of the biggest hearts of anyone I've ever met."

Adds "Catching Fire" director Francis Lawrence (no relation): "Jen is such a down-to-earth goofball that she sets the bar for everybody. She doesn't take herself too seriously. She's able to do an intense

scene. Then she'll stop and joke. It's pretty rare to be able to do it to the level that she can."

Does she take pride in being so relatable? "Not really because I never really meant to," said Lawrence, who's ditched her skirt and heels and has changed into a pair of sweats for her late afternoon interview. "A girl can only take so much!" she sighed.

Returning to theaters Dec. 18, Lawrence will share the screen with veteran actors Robert De Niro and Christian Bale in David O. Russell's 1970s corruption tale "American Hustle."

She admits working with the seasoned cast made her nervous. "But Christian is the nicest and made me feel so normal and welcome," said Lawrence. The film was also a chance to again work with Russell, her "Silver Linings" director. "He's like creative epinephrine," she said. Next up for Lawrence will be appearances in "X-Men: Days of Future Past" and "Dumber and Dumber To." And as if she wasn't busy enough, Lawrence will soon go behind the camera as producer of the adaptation of Jeanette Walls' 2005 best-selling memoir, "The Glass Castle."

## Adam Levine named People's 'sexiest man alive'

NEW YORK (AP) — People magazine has named Adam Levine the "sexiest man alive" of 2013.

The 34-year-old is the lead singer of the group Maroon 5 and a judge on NBC's "The Voice."

The magazine made the announcement Tuesday.

Levine is not romantically available. He got engaged to Victoria's Secret model Behati Prinsloo (bay-AHT'-ee PRINS'-lo) earlier this year.

In a 2012 interview with The Associated Press, the musician described himself as "nerdy" in high school but admitted he "did OK" with girls.

Levine takes the "sexiest" crown from actor Channing Tatum. He joins the ranks of Bradley Cooper, Ryan Reynolds, Brad Pitt and George Clooney, who all have received the honor.

The annual "sexiest man alive" issue of People magazine hits newsstands on Friday. □



In this Feb. 7, 2013 file photo, recording artist Adam Levine attends the launch of "Adam Levine Signature Fragrances" at Macy's Westfield Century City, in Century City, Calif.

Associated Press



# 'Cops,' Spike TV call themselves a happy match

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

"Cops" and Spike TV are having a mutual love affair, in a bad-boys manner of speaking.

The documentary-style crime series has found the freedom to be edgier since moving to cable from its 25-year broadcast TV home on Fox.

And Spike, which decided it needed to grow beyond its young male target audience, has seen a hoped-for increase in female and older viewers that it attributes in part to "Cops" joining its schedule in September.

"Cops" will be on the beat for at least another season, with Spike ordering 22 more episodes from creator John Langley's production company. It is among TV's longest-running series, to Langley's amazement — and perhaps to the dismay of those trying to shake its catchy "Bad Boys" theme song from their mental playlists.

"I'm as shocked as anyone. I had no idea that this show would endure as long as it has. I just wanted to do what I thought was a good show," he said, one that was rejected by every network until Fox signed on.

When Langley and Fox decided by what he calls "mutual agreement" to



This TV publicity image released by Fox shows police officers in Hillsborough, Fla., interrogating two occupants of a car for suspicious drug activity in an episode of "COPS." The Saturday night television fixture "Cops" is leaving Fox after 25 years to move to the Spike network.

Associated Press

end their long relationship and Spike President Kevin Kay approached him about moving there, Langley initially resisted.

"I said, 'Listen, Kevin, I'm not ready to reinvent 'Cops.' If it ain't broke, don't fix it, and I don't want some 30-year-old TV executive telling me how to do the show."

"I want 'Cops.' I don't want anything but 'Cops,'" was Kay's reply, according to Langley, along with a vow to keep lower-echelon network suits out of the picture. The series hasn't abandoned its bread-and-butter action format, videotaping law enforcement officers

from around the country as they engage in car chases, drug busts, domestic disputes and whatever other trouble the day or night brings.

But the tone of "Cops" has changed somewhat since leaving the realm of federally restricted broadcasting, Langley said: Spike is more liberal about language, nudity and allowing brand names to be shown on-screen.

"This is purely a documentary series about real life. However, Fox had me blurring 7-Eleven stores because they viewed it as product placement," he said. Fox declined com-

ment on Langley's remarks. The practice of favoring sponsors is not unusual for commercial-based networks. Spike does have its own standards to adhere to, Langley said, including a ban on certain expletives and the common TV exclusion of the use of "Jesus Christ" as an exclamation. But the channel's audience is accepting of a somewhat more raw "Cops" and the show has performed as anticipated, Kay said. With it and other strong original series including "Bar Rescue" and "Ink Master," Spike saw a 26 percent year-to-year growth in third-quarter prime-time

viewership among adults 18 to 49. It was the biggest audience increase since 2009, the channel said.

"Cops" also brought along its more evenly split male-female viewership, compared with some Spike shows that have drawn a male audience exceeding 70 percent, Kay said, especially martial arts programming that "chased away the women."

"Being in the young-male business is not all it's cracked up to be" when it comes to revenue, he said. "But as we've broadened out, we haven't lost the young male viewership but gained ratings."

Over the years, "Cops" has drawn fire from critics who say it shows street crime without putting it in a broader context of contributing social conditions. Langley doesn't see it that way for the pioneering show that broke ground for reality TV, with all that genre's real and staged incarnations.

"One of the things that truly gives me a kick is that 100 years from now I can envision somebody looking back at the video archive from the 20th and 21st century and saying, 'Let's study human psychology and crime and human behavior vis-a-vis this show called 'Cops,'" he said. □



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade tries to get the crowd excited during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami against the Los Angeles Clippers, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013.

Associated Press

## Wade turning fatherhood story into TV comedy

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — NBA star Dwyane Wade is taking his story of fatherhood to television, looking for some laughs.

The Miami Heat guard has sold a comedy show to Fox, through Sony Pictures Television — and oddly enough, it's the story of an NBA star who gets full custody of his two young sons. With a working title of "Three The Hard Way," it's the first television project announced by Wade's ZZ Productions, a company that bears the initials of his sons' first names.

"I will be involved," Wade said.

"I'll be very involved."

Many details have not been announced, including who will play Wade in the show.

"Haven't figured that out yet," Wade said. "But I'm sure it'll be somebody very handsome."

Wade was awarded custody of his sons in April 2011, ending what was a long and often-vengeful fight with his ex-wife. The couple was divorced in 2010, though some legal matters between them remain unresolved.

That story is not a funny one. Wade has often spoken of how difficult it was for him, and it clearly was not easy for his sons

to handle, either. But Wade said that when he watched "The Cosby Show," he would see a mix of laughter and life lessons. He's hoping the same can happen with this project.

Wade said the idea for a show came to him while he was working on his book "A Father First," which was released in September 2012. Wade, who is represented by CAA, said he went before television executives and pitched it himself.

His sons, he said, are anxious to know who will play them on the show. And also unclear: if Wade's actress girlfriend Gabrielle Union will be a part of it. □



## A Permanent Slump?



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2013 New York Times

Spend any time around monetary officials and one word you'll hear a lot is "normalization." Most though not all such officials accept that now is no time to be tightfisted, that for the time being credit must be easy and interest rates low.

Still, the men in dark suits look forward eagerly to the day when they can go back to their usual job, snatching away the punch bowl whenever the party gets going.

But what if the world we've been living in for the past five years is the new normal? What if depression-like conditions are on track to persist, not for another year or two, but for decades?

You might imagine that speculations along these lines are the province of a radical fringe. And they are indeed radical; but fringe, not so much. A number of economists have been flirting with such thoughts for a while. And now they've moved into the mainstream.

In fact, the case for "secular stagnation" - a persistent state in which a depressed economy is the norm, with episodes of full employment few and far between - was made forcefully recently at the most ultrarespectable of venues, the IMF's big annual research conference. And the person making that case was none other than Larry Summers. Yes, that Larry Summers.

And if Summers is right, everything respectable people have been saying about economic policy is wrong, and will keep being wrong for a long time.

Summers began with a point that should be obvious but is often missed: The financial crisis that started the Great Recession is now far behind us. Indeed, by most measures it ended more than four years ago.

Yet our economy remains depressed.

He then made a related point: Before the crisis we had a huge housing and debt bubble.

Yet even with this huge bubble boosting spending, the overall economy was only so-so - the job market was OK but not great, and the boom was never powerful enough to produce significant inflationary pressure.

Summers went on to draw a remarkable moral: We have, he suggested, an economy whose normal condition is one of inadequate demand - of at least mild depression - and which only gets anywhere close to full employment when it is being buoyed by

bubbles.

I'd weigh in with some further evidence.

Look at household debt relative to income. That ratio was roughly stable from 1960 to 1985, but rose rapidly and inexorably from 1985 to 2007, when crisis struck.

Yet even with households going ever deeper into debt, the economy's performance over the period as a whole was mediocre at best, and demand showed no sign of running ahead of supply. Looking forward, we obviously can't go back to the days of ever-rising debt.

Yet that means weaker consumer demand - and without that demand, how are we supposed to return to full employment?

Again, the evidence suggests that we have become an economy whose normal state is one of mild depression, whose brief episodes of prosperity occur only thanks to bubbles and unsustainable borrowing.

Why might this be happening? One answer could be slowing population growth.

A growing population creates a demand for new houses, new office buildings, and so on; when growth slows, that demand drops off.

America's working-age population rose rapidly in the 1960s and 1970s, as baby boomers grew up, and its workforce rose even faster, as women moved into the labor market.

That's now all behind us. And you can see the effects: even at the height of the housing bubble, we weren't building nearly as many houses as in the 1970s.

Another important factor may be persistent trade deficits, which emerged in the 1980s and since then have fluctuated but never gone away.

Why does all of this matter? One answer is that central bankers need to stop talking about "exit strategies." Easy money should, and probably will, be with us for a very long time.

This, in turn, means we can forget all those scare stories about government debt, which run along the lines of "It may not be a problem now, but just wait until interest rates rise."

More broadly, if our economy has a persistent tendency toward depression, we're going to be living under the looking-glass rules of depression economics - in which virtue is vice and prudence is folly, in which attempts to save more (including attempts to reduce budget deficits) make everyone worse off - for a long time.

I know that many people just hate this kind of talk. It offends their sense of rightness, indeed their sense of morality. Economics is supposed to be about making hard choices (at other peoples' expense, naturally). It's not supposed to be about persuading people to spend more.

But as Summers said, the crisis "is not over until it is over" - and economic reality is what it is. And what that reality appears to be right now is one in which depression rules will apply for a very long time. □



## Cheney Family Values



FRANK BRUNI

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If Liz Cheney, whose bid for the Senate has always had a stench of extreme opportunism, wants to discuss traditions and values, I'm all for it. Let's start here: Isn't there a tradition of close-knit family members' taking care not to wound one another? Is there not value in that?

From the moment that Liz decided, from the perch of her longtime home in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, to act the part of an honest-to-goodness Wyoming resident and challenge an incumbent senator (and family friend) from that state, she must have known that the issue of same-sex marriage would come up. It is, after all, a prominent thread in the news. It's also a prominent thread in stories about her family, given that her father, Dick, bucked his party to become an early Republican supporter of same-sex marriage, and given that her lone sibling, Mary, has a female spouse.

She must also have entertained speaking out against it, because that's what she ended up doing Sunday, on Fox News, saying that she believed "in the traditional definition of marriage." And she must have foreseen that this would pain Mary, who was married last year and whose two children are being brought up with the understanding that their family has the same dignity as any other.

But she plunged forward anyway, disregarding the inevitable discord. As Jonathan Martin reported in The Times, Liz and Mary aren't speaking to each other now, and there's a long shadow over the Cheneys' holiday get-togethers.

Is any political office worth that? Would victory redeem the public message that Liz just sent to her niece and nephew? I'm imagining her awkwardness the next time that she goes to hug or kiss them (and I'm assuming that she's a hugger or kisser, which may be a leap). If there's not a knot in her stomach, then there's nothing at all in her heart.

Having a lesbian sister doesn't compel her to support marriage equality. Having a gay relative doesn't compel anyone to. There are earnest divisions here, often driven by deep-seated religious convictions.

But Liz's decision to chart a course and publicize a view bound to offend her sister is entirely volitional. It's also entirely different from airing other ideological disagreements within families. Conflicting views on abortion or the death penalty don't challenge the very structure and foundation of a loved one's home. Questioning the validity of a marriage does. You're not saying that you part with the way someone thinks. You're saying that you have qualms with who they are, and this is a statement - a sentiment - you can keep to yourself. Even once Liz had elected to run, she could have chosen to say that the issue of gay marriage wasn't going to be part of her campaign.

Is she even being genuine in her opposition? In a 2009 interview about gay marriage on MSNBC, she said that "freedom means freedom for everybody." On Monday I talked with three people who worked with her in the Bush administration, and all were

very surprised by her current stance. They'd had the strong impression that she favored same-sex marriage.

Perhaps Mary and her wife, Heather Poe, did as well, because Poe wrote this on Facebook after Liz's appearance on Fox News: "Liz has been a guest in our home, has spent time and shared holidays with our children, and when Mary and I got married in 2012 - she didn't hesitate to tell us how happy she was for us." Happy back then, self-serving and seemingly cowardly now. This feels to me like a political maneuver tailored to a conservative electorate, and an unnecessary maneuver at that, with the risk of making her seem inauthentic and uncharitable to Wyoming voters who've had more than a decade to absorb her dad's socially moderate views. Gay marriage won't be those voters' primary, secondary or tertiary issue, anyway.

In a statement released Monday, Dick and Lynne Cheney insisted that Liz had "always believed in the traditional definition of marriage." I suppose that's the politically prudent tack at this point, but now the Cheneys' support for gay marriage, so moving over the years, is buried beneath a family feud. Their statement paid less attention to Mary, who's not running for anything, not carrying her parents' ambitions into a new era.

One word stood out. They said that Liz had shown Mary "compassion." This echoed a statement of Liz's own, in which she noted that she had "always tried to be compassionate" toward Mary and her family. What a curious vocabulary. It was as if they were all talking about some charity case.

I hope the Cheneys find their way out of this. It's an ugly spot that Liz, in all her compassion, has put them in.



# Los Angeles Auto Show Unveils Hot Cars For 2013



**Ian Robertson, member of the Board of Management at BMW AG, introduces the 2014 BMW 428i at the Los Angeles Auto Show in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013.**  
(AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

**The Associated Press**  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Los Angeles Auto Show opens to the public Friday after two days of media previews. Here are some of the most buzz-worthy vehicles being introduced at this year's show:

## **BMW 4 SERIES CONVERTIBLE**

BMW adds a convertible to its 4 Series line of two-door coupes, which debuted over the summer. The 4 Series replaced the 3 Series coupe; BMW is now reserving the 3 Series name for four-door sedans. The convertible, which goes on sale in the U.S. early next year, has a three-piece retractable hardtop that can be automatically lowered in 20 seconds at low speeds. To keep away the chill, the car has optional neck warmers in the driver and passenger seats. As in the 4 Series coupe, there are two engine choices: a turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder with 240 horsepower in the 428i and a 3.0-liter turbocharged inline six-cylinder with 300 horsepower in the 435i. Both have an eight-speed automatic transmission. The 428i is offered as a rear-wheel-drive or an all-wheel-drive, while the 435i is only offered as a rear-wheel-drive. The 428i

starts at \$49,675, around \$8,000 more than the starting price of the coupe. The 435i starts at \$55,825.

## **PORSCHE MACAN**

Porsche is entering the fast-growing small SUV market with the Macan. The Macan — the name comes

from the Indonesian word for "tiger" — is six inches shorter than its sibling, the Cayenne SUV, but features the same muscular look. It also uses some tricks to look more substantial, like a broad, wraparound hood that encompasses the headlights. Porsche

designed two versions: The Macan S, with a new, 3.0-liter V6 engine that gets 340 horsepower and the Macan Turbo, with a new 3.6-liter V6 that gets 400 horsepower. Standard features include an off-road mode, which adjusts the torque, shifter and other functions for off-roading at the touch of a button. There's an optional air suspension chassis, which can set the vehicle's ground clearance at three different levels. Porsche says the feature is unique to the Macan among small SUVs. The Macan goes on sale this spring at a starting price of \$50,895 for the Macan S and \$73,295 for the Macan Turbo.

Sales of small luxury SUVs are up 25 percent so far this year, making them the fastest-growing segment in the luxury market.

## **FORD EDGE CONCEPT**

Ford says its Edge concept vehicle previews the design direction and technology of the company's future SUVs.

The lines on the concept are sharper and more an-

gled than the current Edge, and it adopts the trapezoidal grille shape and narrow headlights of Ford's newer products. Advanced safety features include an automated parking system that can find and park in a perpendicular space. The system can even be activated remotely, pulling the car out of a tight spot before the driver gets in.

The Edge concept also will automatically steer away from obstacles and brake to avoid a collision. The Edge mid-size SUV has recently been overshadowed by Ford's newer SUVs, including the small Escape and larger Explorer. This will be the Edge's first full redesign since it was introduced in 2007.

## **JAGUAR F-TYPE COUPE**

The F-Type convertible, which went on sale in the spring, was Jaguar's first two-seat sports car in 50 years. Now the company's adding a hardtop version. The 2015 F-Type coupe, which goes on sale this spring, starts at \$65,000, or \$4,000 less than the convertible. □



**Tennis player Maria Sharapova talks about the new Porsche Macan Turbo at the Los Angeles Auto Show in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013.**  
(AP Photo/Chris Carlson)